

13
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE PARISH OF

ALVERSTOKE,

IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 10th day of January next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of ALVERSTOKE, in the County of Southampton; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

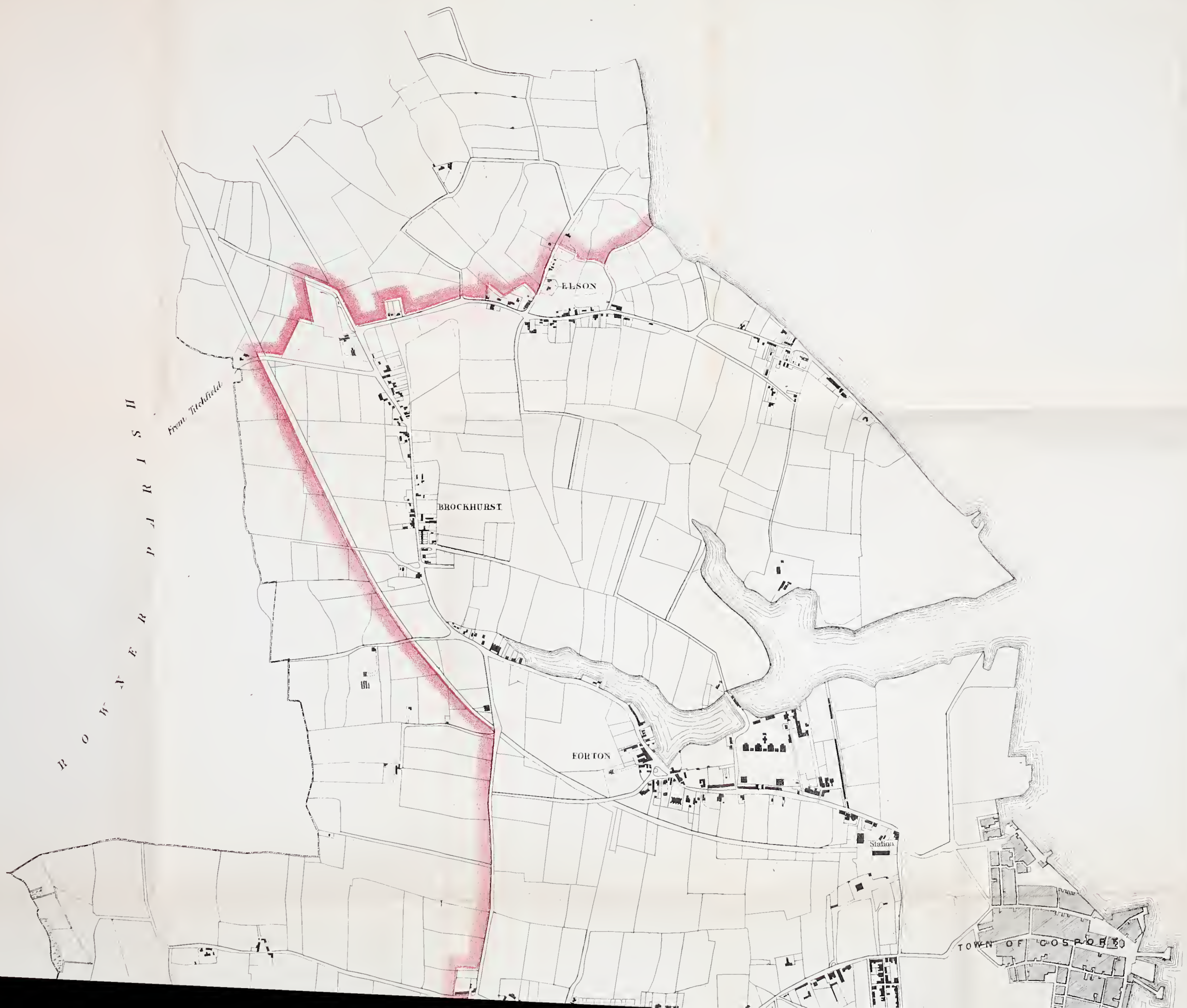
By order of the Board,

C. MACAULAY, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, 24th Nov. 1852.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. cap. 63.)

Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of ALVERSTOKE, in the County of Southampton. By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

*London, 2A Pall-Mall,
February 26, 1852.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

A PETITION from certain of the ratepayers of the parish of Alverstone, in the county of Hampshire, and particularly from that portion of them residing in Gosport which is situated in the same parish, having been presented to your Honourable Board, praying that a Preliminary Inquiry, according to the provisions of the Public Health Act, might be instituted into the sanitary condition of that town; I received your instructions to proceed to Gosport and commence the requisite investigation.

The present Report, which I have now the honour to lay before you, is founded on the statement of the various witnesses who came forward to give evidence, and the results of my own personal observation during the continuance of the inquiry.

INTRODUCTION.—The petition for the inquiry was adopted at a public meeting held at Gosport on the 30th September 1851, when it was resolved that the provisions of the Public Health Act should be adopted, and that a Committee should be formed, composed of certain of the Trustees under the Local Act, and of some of the ratepayers resident in the town. This was accordingly done; and it was by means of the same Committee that the correspondence on the subject of the inquiry was conducted, the signatures to the petition obtained, and the information and evidence procured, for the use of the Superintending Inspector. A copy of the petition, which received the signature of 220,

or nearly one-sixth of the whole body of the ratepayers, will be found at length in the Appendix, together with the other evidence and statements which were laid before me.

OPENING OF THE INQUIRY.—The day for the opening of the inquiry having been fixed, and due notice of the same having been given, according to the requirements of the Public Health Act, I proceeded to Gosport and commenced the proceedings at the Market House, on Wednesday the 14th January 1852, and continued the same during that and the succeeding day.

The inquiry was attended each day by a large number of persons, including some of the most influential residents, as well as many of the labouring people. The names of those who were present will be found in the Appendix (page 37).

POPULATION, NUMBER OF HOUSES, VALUE OF RATEABLE PROPERTY, &c. — The total population of the parish of Alverstoke was in

1831	-	-	-	-	12,637
1841	-	-	-	-	13,585
1851	-	-	-	-	16,353

The number of houses was in

1841	-	-	-	-	2,598
1851	-	-	-	-	3,295

The rateable value of the property in the parish is,

			£	s.	d.
In the South Liberty	-	-	9,965	5	7
„ North Liberty	-	-	8,371	8	3
„ North Town	-	-	4,833	0	0
„ South Town	-	-	5,708	11	0
			£28,878	4	10

It must be observed, that the whole of the above returns refer to the parish of Alverstoke, which includes, within its limits, the town of Gosport, as well as the villages of Alverstoke, Anglesey, Forton, and Elson. A considerable part of the parish is strictly agricultural; and it is not, therefore, my intention to devote any space to a description of these localities; but the villages I have just enumerated exhibit, to a greater or less degree, many of the features that are presented in the poorer quarters of Gosport, and are on this account, therefore, fit subjects for the application of the Public Health Act.

With respect to the town of Gosport itself the population is calculated to be about 7,000. A return of the number

of houses in the parish, according to their respective classes, will be found in the Appendix (page 38).

The number of houses in Gosport itself are as follows:—

At £5 and under	-	-	-	882
„ 6	-	-	-	131
„ 7	-	-	-	111
„ 8	-	-	-	77
„ 9	-	-	-	64
„ 10	-	-	-	49
Above 10	-	-	-	314
				1,628

It will thus be seen that an unusually large portion of the houses are of small rateable value, for upwards of one half are of not more than 5*l.* annual value, whilst many of them are considerably under that amount; and not more than one-fifth exceed an annual rateable value of 10*l.*

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—The town of Gosport is strongly and regularly fortified; and within the defensive works are situated some of our largest naval and military establishments. On these, indeed, the town is mainly dependent, for it does not possess any branches of manufacturing industry. The population of Gosport increased most rapidly during the late war, and the stimulant which was thus afforded to a rapid extension of the town has been one of the chief causes of its present low sanitary condition. I need hardly say that the whole of the fortifications are under the control and management of the Ordnance department, as are also several of the roads within the parish.

LOCAL ACTS AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT.—A list of the Local Acts in force within the borough will be found in the Appendix (page 41).

The government of the town, for sanitary purposes, at least, is vested in the hands of the Commissioners of Paving and Lighting, who are a self-elected body, composed at the time of the inquiry, of 33 acting Trustees. The names of these gentlemen, together with other information relative to the working of the Act, will be found in the Appendix (page 41).

The first Improvement Act was passed in 1763, but a second, and an amended one, which is now in force, was obtained in 1814; and cost, though unopposed, the sum of 613*l.* The Trustees are empowered to borrow 2,500*l.*, but

the present debt is only 2,050*l.*, on which 4½ per cent. interest is paid. According to the latest return with which I was furnished, the amount of the property on which the paving and lighting rates are levied is 9,811*l.* 15*s.* The gross rates for the year ending March 1851 produced 1,144*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, or, deducting 119*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* for excusals, arrears, &c., the net sum of 1,025*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

The average expenditure for the last six years has been 899*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

A statement of the expenditure of the Trustees for the last six years will be found in the Appendix (page 40).

I received other statements on the subject of the Paving and Lighting Trustees, but as these were directed against the faulty clauses of their Act, and did not in any way bear upon the proceedings of the Trustees themselves, I have noticed this portion of the evidence in connexion with those numerous evils under which the town is now suffering, but for which the Local Act is unfortunately totally inadequate to provide a remedy.

The Ferry Commissioners are a public body, acting under an Act passed in 1817. There are about 500 of these Commissioners, the county magistrates being ex-officio members. During the last war the ferry tolls used to produce 1,000*l.* a year, but they have now dwindled down to about 200*l.*, and the salaries of the officers appointed by the Commissioners swallow up the whole of this sum. The hard or landing place for the ferry boats is a public highway, the property of the parish, but it is kept in repair by the Poor Law Guardians.

The Market House Commissioners were formed under an Act passed in 1810. Their original capital was about 12,000*l.*, and their tolls once produced 800*l.* a year; they are now, however, let for about 120*l.* only.

POOR RATE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The following general statement is extracted from the printed accounts annually published by the Board of Guardians for the parish of Alverstoke.

Number of paupers in the workhouse from 1844 to 1850 :—

1844	-	-	-	-	-	111
1845	-	-	-	-	-	110
1846	-	-	-	-	-	131
1847	-	-	-	-	-	137
1848	-	-	-	-	-	131
1849	-	-	-	-	-	126
1850	-	-	-	-	-	137

The poor rate income and expenditure for the same period was as follows :—

Years.	Received.			Expended.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1844	3,561	13	4	3,378	8	9
1845	3,797	12	5	3,585	0	0
1846	3,770	0	0	3,577	14	4
1847	4,154	12	7	4,069	9	1
1848	4,410	6	1	4,181	0	5
1849	4,276	10	9	4,170	7	2
1850	4,556	8	6	4,343	19	7
	28,527	3	8	27,305	19	4

THE MORTALITY.—The average annual mortality per cent. from all causes, during seven years, 1838–44, for all England, was—females, 2·104, and males, 2·270 ; whilst at Alverstoke, including Portsea, but exclusive of Haslar Hospital, the average annual mortality for the corresponding period was—females 2·171, males 2·597 ; and the annual mortality per cent., at different ages, during seven years, 1838–44,—

Years.	Males.	Females.
0 to 5	8·215	7·036
5 „ 15	0·482	0·581
35 „ 45	1·635	1·318
45 „ 55	2·156	1·702
55 „ 65	3·371	3·121
65 „ 75	6·647	5·902

whilst the average mortality, during the same period, in 21 healthy statistical districts, stands as follows :—

Years.	Males.	Females.
0 to 5	4·323	3·660
5 „ 15	0·393	0·460
35 „ 45	0·913	0·992
45 „ 55	1·276	1·172
55 „ 65	2·396	2·131
65 „ 75	5·657	4·799

In the Registrar-General's Report on cholera in 1848 and 1849, for the Alverstoke district, comprising a population of 13,510 persons, the summary of deaths, during the months of October, November, and December, were from cholera 126; of these 76 consisted of males and 50 females, and from diarrhoea 20, *i.e.* 7 males and 13 females.

In 1849 the deaths from cholera and diarrhoea to 10,000 living amounted to 93, or one death to every 107 persons living, and from diarrhoea 15 to 10,000 living, or one death to every 676 persons.

The following returns of the mortality, from all causes, in the parish of Alverstoke, from 1849 to 1851, have been furnished to me by Mr. Woodrow, the Superintendent Registrar:—

Causes of death.	1849.	1850.	1851.
Deaths from all causes - -	636	417	477
Deaths from specified causes, <i>viz.</i> :	563	355	394
Zymotic diseases - -	241	32	47
Dropsy, cancer, &c. - -	21	18	21
Tubercular diseases - -	101	107	136
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses }	55	59	49
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels - - - }	12	7	12
Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration - }	48	50	54
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion }	25	24	19
Diseases of the kidneys, &c. -	2	3	3
Childbirth, &c. - - -	—	—	1
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c. - - - }	—	—	2
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissue, &c. - - - }	—	1	2
Malformations - - -	1	1	—
Premature birth and debility -	14	16	11
Atrophy - - - -	5	5	9
Age - - - -	19	17	15
Sudden death - - - -	3	5	—
Violence, cold, intemperance, } privation - - - }	16	10	13
	563	355	394

The above abstracts are made from the more detailed information given in the Appendix (page 42.)

INSPECTION OF THE TOWN.—During the course of the inquiry, and in accordance with my usual habit, I made a personal examination of the district, particularly of those portions of it which were stated to be unhealthy, or to be more than usually deficient in sanitary comforts and appliances.

I was accompanied on my visit by several of the gentlemen whose names are mentioned as having been present during the inquiry.

From the position of the town of Gosport, and from its vicinity to a great naval depôt like that of Portsmouth (of which indeed it may be said to form a part), your Honourable Board will be aware of the peculiar circumstances under which many of the poorer dwelling-houses in the place have been built; a great majority of them owing their existence to the late war, which brought both to Gosport and Portsmouth a large amount of population and prosperity.

To meet the wants of a rapidly increasing but shifting population, many houses were built of most inferior materials, as they were intended for those whose residence in the place was only temporary.

This circumstance is sufficient to account for the very defective state of many of the dwellings I inspected, and for the absence of all proper means of water supply or drainage that but too many of them presented.

Amongst the places which were brought under my notice by the gentlemen who gave evidence during the inquiry are the following:—Forton-road, Brockhurst, Hardway, Berry's-alley, Floating dock-yard, Button's-yard, Bayley's-yard, Child's-yard, York-court, Handley's-yard, Aylet's-yard, Water-yard, Roebuck-passage, Bunker's-hill-yard, Rodney's-court, Rodney's-court west, Whitehall-court, Meeting-house-yard, Golden centurion-yard, Jones's-court, Artichoke-yard, Dominie's-yard, Titchers-court, Horwood's-yard, Yorkshire Grey-yard, Scotch Arms-yard, Roberts's-lane, Garrett's-yard, Sprent's-yard, Darby's-yard, Thorngate's-yard, Crown-court, Bevis's-yard, Green-row, Ryme's-alley, Hobbs's-yard, Vinson's-yard, Chapman's-yard, Star-yard, Neale's-court, Hoskins'-alley, Rodney's Head-alley, Nelson-yard, Regent's-court, Rand's-court, several courts leading from King-street, the New Town, &c. &c.

The houses in these places varied from about five in the smallest to twenty-four in those of the largest area.

Most if not all of the above-named localities are inhabited by the poor and labouring classes; but many of the houses

tenanted by persons in a higher station of life present numerous examples of defective construction and faulty internal arrangement. I was forcibly struck with this in many new-storied houses, possessing a very respectable exterior. Such was the case in the houses along the Forton-road, where many new houses are now being laid out without any provision having been made for sewerage. Before long prejudicial effects must be experienced from such neglect, as it is impossible that putrescent matter can be collected in cesspools, or allowed to infiltrate the subsoil, without producing more or less of disease and unhealthiness amongst those who are exposed to the effects of such bad arrangements.

The position of the town is likely to aggravate the bad consequences of defective sewerage and house drainage, for it lies low, and has therefore none of the advantages of places built on sloping ground, where natural drainage at least is attainable. At Gosport, on the contrary, the ditches and watercourses are filled with liquid refuse, which, under a proper system of sewerage, would be quickly carried by underground conduits to some central point of discharge, instead of being permitted to poison the atmosphere with offensive gases.

A considerable portion of the town sewage is discharged into the Mill Lake, the waters of which are affected by the tidal influence; so that a surface of decomposing unwholesome mud is exposed to the atmosphere during sixteen hours out of the twenty-four.

Many of the houses also are in a bad state as regards the means of ventilation. Nor can this indeed be otherwise, as they are frequently crowded together in courts and gardens, originally intended for the use of other houses, but which were converted into building sites during the period when additional house accommodation was so urgently demanded.

Under such circumstances it is impossible to give some of the houses a proper supply of fresh air; but this point ought to be an additional argument in favour of the necessity for sewerage, house drainage, and cleanliness of every kind, internal and external, so that such air as can reach the dwellings may be in as pure and wholesome a state as possible.

The houses I visited in the places already enumerated necessarily varied much in their character. In some I am glad to state their owners had done what they could, with the imperfect means at their command, to pro-

mote the health, the comfort, and the cleanliness of their tenants; whilst in others there was a want of that care and attention which every landlord ought to bestow upon his property, whether it be of an inferior kind or not.

In a subsequent part of my Report I shall have occasion to offer some few remarks to the owners of house property upon the probable effects of the Public Health Act.

The number of houses of the "small tenement" class is very large in Gosport; and as it is generally property of this description on which the expenses of the Public Health Act are said to fall with the greatest severity, I would particularly call the attention of owners of houses occupied by the poor to the examples hereafter given of the actual cost of works of sewerage and water supply, which are now in operation in a town where these improvements have been carried out under the provisions and by means of the facilities afforded by the Public Health Act.

THE CONDITION OF THE STREETS.—The paving, repairing, and cleansing of the streets in the town of Gosport are in the hands of the Local Commissioners; but the roads in the other portions of the parish of Alverstoke are under the management of the highway surveyors.

With respect to the condition of the streets of Gosport, it may be stated that in many cases the pavement and the surface cleansing are both very defective; the latter, however, being chiefly caused by the absence of sewerage and house drainage, so that much that ought to be carried away underground now remains on the surface.

These remarks are intended to apply to the condition of the thoroughfares as well as to that of the courts and alleys inhabited by the poor and labouring classes. These places are not visited by the scavengers employed by the Commissioners, except at the request of the persons residing there.

The effect of partial arrangements of this kind may easily be conceived, when it is remembered that a very large proportion of the dwelling-houses in the town are situated in courts and yards not under the Commissioners' jurisdiction. It would appear, indeed, that 529 out of 1,628, or nearly one-third of the dwelling-houses in Gosport, are erected in places which are not under the control of the authorities.

The Commissioners submit the paving and repairing of the roads to public competition. The last contract was made for three years from October 1847, between the Commissioners and Mr. Garrett, whose offer was the lowest.

The Commissioners do not employ a regular surveyor,

but Mr. Adams, one of their own body, acts gratuitously in that capacity. Mr. Garrett, also, who is now their contractor, used occasionally to act as the surveyor for the Commissioners.

The cost of paving the streets during the last six years has been as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
1845	-	-	-	233	8 5
1846	-	-	-	217	15 3
1847	-	-	-	184	12 8
1848	-	-	-	341	11 9
1849	-	-	-	142	17 6
1850	-	-	-	521	14 7
			£1,642	0	2

With regard to the materials employed in the pavement of the roads, it was stated by Mr. Garrett, the contractor, that “some of the streets were pebbled, but those of a better class were pitched either with Purbeck or Jersey stone, the latter being used in the places where there was most traffic. High-street was macadamized with flint, but the kerbs were formed chiefly of granite.”

Whilst describing the condition of the streets, I may be permitted to allude to the road over the Hard, or Beach, near the Ferry landing-place. The repair of this road has been hitherto defrayed out of the poor’s rate, though not without opposition on the part of some of the inhabitants.

It would appear, however, from the extracts from the parish records of Alverstoke, with which I have been furnished by Horatio Compigné, Esq., that as far back as 1808 the parish were threatened with an indictment for allowing the road to fall into disrepair. The effect of this proceeding was to make the parish authorities repair the road, at a cost of upwards of 100*l*. Smaller sums have from time to time been expended in its repair, but the parish was in September last year called upon to effect its thorough restoration. The Poor Law Guardians objected to do so at that season of the year, and they voted a sum of 30*l*. for the temporary repair of the Hard. Three gentlemen, however, who were present when this resolution was passed, protested against the amount required for the repair of the Hard being taken from the rates levied for the poor.

It will be seen, from the summary given at page 31 of the Report, that the Local Board will, by the provisions of the Public Health Act, have ample means at their disposal for

improving and effectively maintaining the streets and roads placed under their control.

THE WATER SUPPLY.—The town and the surrounding neighbourhood are entirely dependent for their supply of water upon wells, either public or private. The principal public wells are four in number, viz. :—

- No. 1. Goodeve's or Byles's well, Haslar-street.
- No. 2. Paddon's well, Windmill-row.
- No. 3. Biden's well, North-street.
- No. 4. Old waterworks spring, Forton.

These numbers will be found to correspond with those prefixed to the different samples analysed by Dr. Playfair, whose statement will be found in the Appendix (page 64).

In addition to the above there are thirteen other wells belonging to the Paving and Lighting Commissioners, who sunk them to ensure themselves a supply of water for street watering and the like, but they also permit the inhabitants to use them for domestic purposes.

The Paving and Lighting Commissioners have likewise put down pumps in three public wells which had none before, so that, together with these and an old existing well, there are now seventeen public pumps from which a gratuitous supply can be obtained.

In addition to the wells already mentioned, there are others either sunk for the benefit of a single house or situated in one of the courts or yards, and used for the common supply of the inhabitants of these localities; but in almost the whole of the wells of this description the water is of very indifferent quality; in some instances it is affected by the action of the tide, and is more or less brackish; in others it is deteriorated and polluted by the infiltration of the offensive matter contained in the cesspools, which are so common throughout the town.

The four principal wells belong to private individuals. The one last named, the Forton spring, is the property of Mr. Cruickshank; this was the source from which it was originally intended that Gosport should be supplied; for it is worthy of notice, that, although the town is still unprovided with waterworks in the ordinary acceptance of the word, their erection was contemplated upwards of a century and a half ago. During the inquiry I was furnished with a copy of an old Act, dated 1698, by which the then Bishop of Winchester gave power to one Thomas Lewes of London to erect waterworks upon his ground at Forton. The further history of this project is

thus given by Mr. Cruickshank, the present owner of the Forton spring, in his evidence, Appendix (page 63) :—

“After the Act had been obtained a Joint Stock Company was formed to carry out the waterworks, but much litigation arose, and a suit in Chancery was commenced by them against the Bishop. At this time the preliminary steps had been taken by the Company, and pipes had been laid down to supply the water. The Company’s affairs, however, fell into confusion, and a person who had a claim upon their plant took it and the water-pipes. In the course of time, the lives on which the Bishop had originally granted the lease became extinct, and on the property reverting to him a new lease was granted, also on three lives, which were those of the youngest branches of the royal family.

“The well had been his (Mr. Cruickshank’s) property for the last eighteen months. Whatever source might be fixed on for the future supply of the town, he was willing to use his best endeavours to promote the comfort of his fellow-townsmen.”

With reference to the latter part of Mr. Cruickshank’s statement it may be remarked, that the Forton spring is now but little used by the inhabitants of Gosport, for the occupants of about 239 houses only in the immediate neighbourhood of the spring draw their supply from it without any charge. The locality of these houses is given in the Appendix (page 64), the return having been furnished by Mr. Neale, to whom I am indebted for much other valuable information on the various subjects connected with the inquiry.

In a town where there are no regular works, it is, of course, impossible to obtain anything like an estimate of the probable quantity of water consumed by the inhabitants. On the present occasion, however, I am enabled to give, from the evidence of C. Barker, Esq., and Mr. Paddon, a statement of the water retailed from the three wells already mentioned.

				Gallons.
Goodeve’s well	supplies	18	watercarts, or a daily yield of	3,888
Paddon’s well	„	12	„ „	2,592
Biden’s well	„	6	„ „	1,296
Daily yield				- 7,776

The demand is, however, far short of what the supply can furnish, for the yield of Goodeve’s well alone is estimated by its owners at 960 gallons per minute, or 1,382,400 gallons per day of 24 hours.

Mr. Paddon, in his written statement (Appendix, page 66), does not say what quantity his well will yield, but he gives the average amount pumped in 24 hours at 12 tons, or 2,688 gallons, which is nearly the same as that I have already stated to be taken by the water-carts.

It will be seen from the above-mentioned circumstances that, as far as abundance of supply goes, Gosport need fear no want of water, for the yield from one well alone is sufficient for a larger population than the town now possesses.

In point of quality also Goodeve's or Byles's well, to which I have just alluded, is much superior to the average, as is also the water from Paddon's well, which is of the same quality.

Of the four springs analysed, three are remarkably soft. The only hard water is that from the old waterworks spring at Forton, which has 21·6 degrees, whereas the other waters have not more than 5 degrees of hardness. Dr. Playfair has stated (Appendix, page 65) "That all the waters analysed were remarkable for the large quantity of alkaline salts contained in them."

But although the town is thus abundantly and excellently supplied with water, as regards both its quantity and quality, there are still very many of the poorer classes who do not participate in either of these advantages; for at Gosport, as in other places similarly situated with regard to their supply of water, it frequently happens that in the most crowded and destitute localities the public pumps are the fewest, and the water supply consequently of the dearest and most inadequate description.

But in considering the nature of the present water supply, I should be failing in my duty were I to confine my attention to the question of its domestic and personal uses only. In reporting on the condition of the town, it is necessary for me to state, that by the present arrangements no head of water can be obtained for flushing the drains and sewers, or for the extinction of fires. For these purposes it is essential to have a constant supply of water at high pressure, and these requirements can never be obtained under the system which now prevails.

In dealing with the question of the future and improved water supply of the town, it is necessary to consider the manner in which the Public Health Act contemplates that this should be effected. In the first place, it gives the control of the water supply to the Local Board, who are empowered to take it from any available source within their district, in case there are no works already in existence, and to furnish a supply of water sufficient for every house in the town, provided they can do so at a cost of not more than 2*d.* per house a week.

It will be seen therefore that the supply, to fulfil the requirements of the Public Health Act, must be not only cheap, but abundant.

In a preliminary Report like the present, in the preparation of which I have not had the assistance of a plan of the district on a sufficiently minute scale, I do not consider it advisable to offer any detailed estimate of the cost or lengthened description of the future works for the water supply of the town.

I shall therefore confine myself to the enunciation of general principles, because whatever source may hereafter be adopted, or whatever may be the nature of the works ultimately adopted, it will be necessary for the Local Board to have a minute examination of the district instituted, in order that they may be satisfied that they have secured the best source at their command, and that the works proposed to be laid down are the cheapest that can be devised.

I am desirous of calling attention to the question of cost, because success in the extension of sanitary works, whether at Gosport or elsewhere, cannot be looked for unless the same can be executed at so moderate an outlay as to be within the means of the district in which they are to be carried out. It is essentially necessary that this view of the question should be kept in mind on the present occasion, because, as I have already stated, Gosport is far from being a wealthy town, and it would go far to endanger the practical application of the Public Health Act if the carrying out of its provisions, whether with regard to water supply or drainage, were to be attended with an excessive expenditure.

But whatever outlay may be required for the construction of the works, and the extension of a good and wholesome supply of water to the houses of even the poorest classes in the town, it is necessary that the inhabitants should bear in mind that they are now paying a very high rate for the water retailed to them from the public wells. The present price is 1*d.* for nine gallons, and though this may not be a heavy item in the expenditure of the higher and middle classes of the town, it is a serious amount for a poor person to pay.

As a proof how much this rate of charge may be fairly expected to be diminished, if the future water supply be carried out under the provisions of the Public Health Act, I may be permitted to state some of the charges made by a Local Board who now supply the district under their control, the inhabitants of which were formerly, like those of Gosport, dependent upon pumps and wells for the water they required.

In this district, houses assessed at 5*l.* 10*s.* and under, are charged 1*d.* a week, those up to 15*l.* from 1*d.* to 2*d.*, and so on by a slowly increasing scale, whilst the very highest

class of houses pay less than 1s. per week. It must be further borne in mind, that this charge is for a constant and unlimited supply of water, at high pressure, and available both for domestic uses and for flushing the house-drains, with which, I may further observe, every house is furnished.

But, in addition to the expense, there are certain disadvantages inseparable from the practice of supplying a district from pumps by means of water-carts. For example, each householder must provide the means of storing up a supply till the water-cart next comes round, and to do so he is obliged to incur some expense. But other evils result from the practice, in the case of the poor at least; for it is a well known fact that even the purest water soon becomes polluted, if allowed to remain in a close and densely occupied room; and in the poorer quarters of the town, the storing up of the water, if periodically supplied, must always be effected under circumstances of this nature.

My observations on the water supply have hitherto been confined to the consideration of the question as regards domestic uses only, but it must be borne in mind that there are many public purposes of a not less important nature for which a supply of water is required. 1st. It is essential to all good sewerage that a copious supply of water should be available for the purposes of flushing. 2d. It is found that the cleansing of the surface of the streets is performed more easily and economically by means of the hose and jet than by any other method. 3d. A copious supply of water at high pressure obviates the necessity for providing fire-engines, and maintaining them in efficiency at a heavy annual expense.

Before quitting the subject of the water supply, it is right that I should mention the written statement given in the Appendix (page 67) of Stephen Willington, one of the present retailers of water. The question is one for the Local Board to decide, but it is plain that, although a change from the present system may be productive of cases of individual hardship, it is not reasonable on that account to overlook the benefits which the inhabitants generally may expect to derive from the execution of a complete set of works to provide an unlimited supply of water to every house, even though the improvement were to lead to the extinction of the present employment of the water carriers.

With regard to the interests of the owners of the public wells, it will be sufficient if I refer to the 75th section of the Public Health Act, by which Local Boards are empowered to enter into the requisite arrangements for supplying their district with water.

THE SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—By the existing Local Act the provisions for the sewerage of the district under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners are inadequate for their intended object. They have power to pave or cleanse the surface of the streets, but the want of power to raise money prevents them from undertaking the construction of sewers. The refuse from the houses and the storm-waters are carried off by open surface channels, which are discharged into the harbour or the moats round the town by means of short covered drains, but these are so trifling in extent that there are not 1,500 feet of covered drains in the whole of the town.

And whilst the arrangements for the removal of the sewerage are thus objectionable, those provided for its outfall are not less so.

Several of the witnesses have drawn attention to the state of the moats round the town, and have pointed out that their present stagnant condition is made still worse by the discharge into them of much of the town sewage. Amongst other evidence on this subject I may be permitted to quote that of Mr. *Adams*, who said,—

“That the house refuse was chiefly discharged into open channels, the contents of which were delivered by 11 outlet drains. Two of these were to the east, near the public landing place; the smell from these was very offensive, and the nuisance they occasioned was very great, besides which a bad impression was created in the minds of strangers when they first entered the town. There were three other outlets on the south, and one on the west, with their outfalls into an old mill pond. The last named outlet received the contents of several common privies, but it was not within the Commissioners’ jurisdiction.

“*There was not a single properly constructed sewer in the whole town.* The bad state of the drainage was one of the chief evils of the district, and this was rendered still greater by the trifling amount of fall that could be obtained. The drains emptied themselves near high water-mark, there being only a difference of level of 13 feet between this point and the head of High-street, which was 1,600 feet in length. The average lift of tide was about $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

“This general absence of fall in the channels was attended with many bad results, and it rendered it quite impossible to keep them in a cleanly or wholesome condition.”

After evidence like the above, it is needless for me to dwell at length upon the extent of the evils arising from the absence of proper sewerage. The cause of them is to be found in the defective nature of the Local Act, which prevents the authorities from adopting any efficient remedial measures, though there appears to have been every

readiness evinced on the part of the Commissioners to do all they could to mitigate the evil.

Mr. *Hoskins*, the chairman of the Committee of Nuisances (Appendix, page 58), after drawing attention to the present state of the moats, said,—

“That the greatest impediment to cleanliness was caused by the state of the drainage. The town authorities had made every exertion, and had also tried to flush and cleanse the channels, but as the whole of the drainage was on the surface, they found it impossible to do so. In summer, particularly, the accumulations of refuse stagnating in the channels, were so offensive that people were driven away from the town in consequence. Wherever the surface channels discharged their contents into the outlet drains, the gratings were choked up with collections of refuse. The foreshore, also, was rendered most offensive from the same cause, and its condition led strangers who visited the town to exclaim, when they first saw it, ‘What a dirty place this is!’ The Commissioners had no power to remedy the last-named evil, as their jurisdiction extended to high water-mark only.”

In the absence of proper arrangements for the main sewerage, those for the house drainage are necessarily very imperfect and defective. But few of the dwellings have any regular house-drains communicating with the main sewers. In the houses of the better class the more offensive refuse is discharged into cesspools, and the waste water of the house is carried off by the surface channels already described. I shall have occasion to revert to the cesspools in a subsequent part of my Report, so that I do not now propose to describe them; but I may be permitted to remark, that the existence of these places is so general, that every house in the town is provided with one, unless it is of the poorest kind, and unprovided with any species of privy accommodation whatever. I mention this fact to prove how imperative it is that efficient sewerage should be formed throughout the town, in order that the offensive matter which now collects and decomposes in the immediate vicinity of every house, may be removed from it frequently, effectually, and economically.

The preceding remarks apply to the houses of the better class alone. The condition of the houses occupied by the poor, living in alleys and courts, is infinitely worse. Many of these localities are unpaved, and as the arrangements for the removal of every kind of house refuse are of the most imperfect kind, it necessarily happens that the surface of the courts and narrow lanes is covered with waste water or offensive matter which has accumulated from the absence of proper privy accommodation, and efficient street cleansing.

A portion of the refuse from the poorer class of houses finds its way to the surface channels, but much of it remains behind to saturate the soil, or pollute the surrounding atmosphere. And even that part of it which does pass down the surface channels becomes so offensive as to be almost as prejudicial to health as that which stagnates on the surface of the courts and alleys. The bad state of these channels is further aggravated by their want of a proper rate of inclination.

The Commissioners, as I have already said, do all in their power to mitigate the evil, by flushing the surface channels, at a considerable annual expense. On referring to a statement of their accounts, indeed, it will be found that about 10 per cent. of their total outlay is expended in watering the streets and the surface channels. The evil is, no doubt, modified by these means, but no amount of flushing can ever cure the radical defects of channels imperfectly paved, and badly laid out when originally constructed.

In the future arrangements for the sewerage and house-drainage, it will be necessary for the Local Board to bear in mind, that the outfalls for the sewage must be changed, that the sewers must be laid at such a depth as to carry off the waste water and refuse from the lowest story of each house, and that such a rate of inclination must be preserved as will ensure the rapid and complete removal of the sewage.

In the use of the materials for the sewers and house-drains, also, care must be taken to employ none but those of an impermeable nature. One of the chief evils connected with the former mode of making sewers, was caused by the employment of materials in their construction which admitted of the escape of much of the liquid sewage, and which, therefore, produced, though in a minor degree, the same saturation of the subsoil, and the same deleterious effects as I have already mentioned when speaking of the cesspools in the town.

If attention be paid to the above-mentioned general principles, there need no longer be a continuance of the annoyance now caused by the discharge of the sewage at the public landing place alluded to by Mr. James Adams in his evidence (Appendix, page 58), nor need the water in the moats be polluted in the manner it now is by receiving the contents of many of the surface channels.

By laying the sewers at a proper depth and inclination the house-drains connected with them will at once carry off the refuse matter which now passes into the surface channels.

For the reasons given in my remarks on the water supply, I confine myself to the enumeration of general principles; and with regard to the cost of the works, I prefer giving in another part of my Report the result of personal experience in a district where works of sewerage and water supply have been executed under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

With regard to the house-drainage, I may refer to the summary of powers in the hands of the Local Board (Report, page 31), to show what will be required from owners of house property with respect to the drainage of their premises.

In this portion of the work care must be taken not to make the house-drains larger than is consistent with their proper efficiency; and an attention to this precaution will not only increase their usefulness, but largely diminish the cost attendant upon their first construction.

In making the foregoing remarks I assume that when the works for sewerage and house-drainage are in progress, those for the water supply will also be in course of construction; for I consider it essential to the efficiency of sewerage works, on the principles I have laid down, that an abundant head of water should be at hand for flushing when necessary both the main sewers and house-drains.

THE CONDITION OF THE MOATS.—As the moats on the southern and western sides of the town will necessarily remain in the hands of the Board of Ordnance, I would suggest that the Local Board, when appointed, should make an application to the Ordnance authorities, requesting them to have the moats more frequently flushed with salt water. There cannot, I think, be much doubt of such a request being granted, for it concerns the health of the garrison and military as much as it does that of the civil portion of the population, that these places should be kept in a perfectly clear and wholesome state. Moreover the Board of Ordnance, on a former occasion, showed great readiness in attending to the representations of the inhabitants with regard to the opening of the Lines as a recreation ground, so that an equal willingness to benefit the town by the frequent flushing of the moats would, no doubt, be shown by the Board.

THE CESSPOOLS.—In my remarks on the sewerage and drainage, I have incidentally alluded to the practice prevalent throughout Gosport of constructing a cesspool in connexion with each house to receive the night soil, and I

also stated that there were no dwellings in Gosport without one, unless indeed it were of the poorest kind, and unprovided with any species of privy accommodation whatever.

In but very few instances are any of the cesspools furnished with overflow drains. Indeed, the almost entire absence of under-ground sewerage is sufficient to prevent their formation; inconvenience and annoyance enough being experienced from the collections of waste water and house refuse in the existing surface channels, without their offensive condition being made worse by the discharge into them of the contents of the cesspools.

In the absence of any means of drainage to carry off the night soil, each householder is compelled to have his cesspool emptied by manual labour, and in many instances the contents have to be carried through the house. The cost of this process is in itself considerable, but the evil consequences resulting from it are of much more serious importance.

It is now matter of familiar knowledge that the contents of cesspools when in an advanced state of decomposition, emit gases of a most deadly nature. But cesspools are seldom emptied until they are full; that is, not until the contents from their long detention have passed into an advanced stage of decomposition; consequently, the time when cesspools are generally emptied is precisely that when they are in the most deleterious condition.

But the evils caused by the cesspools in Gosport are not confined to those only which arise from the removal of their contents. It is stated by the Rev. James Tanner (Appendix, page 58), "That some of the cesspools are made in clay, others in gravel, and steined with brick laid dry." When the surrounding soil consists of clay, but little infiltration may take place; but when it is composed of gravel, the night soil must find its way through the bricks with which the cesspool is lined.

The dimensions of each cesspool are generally 6 feet by 4 feet, and 8 feet deep, so that the surrounding soil must to a very serious extent be charged with the poisonous gases emitted from the night-soil during its decomposing stages. I need hardly say that these gases do not, and cannot, remain in the soil. They either force their way into the atmosphere, or into some neighbouring well, the waters of which are in consequence rendered unwholesome and dangerous. With reference to this last-named evil, indeed, more than one of the witnesses drew attention to the polluted condition of the water in the numerous shallow wells, and assigned the infiltration from the cesspools as a reason for it.

If necessary, numerous examples might be adduced of the fatal consequences produced by the contents of cesspools, either in polluting water used for drinking, or in vitiating the atmosphere in the immediate neighbourhood of ill-ventilated and overcrowded localities; but I refrain from entering into such details, because the general practice of making cesspools has been forced upon the inhabitants in consequence of the absence of any means by which the night-soil could otherwise be discharged.

It is to be hoped, however, that when the Public Health Act is applied to the town, and its provisions put in practical operation, the cesspools will be speedily discontinued, and that owners of houses will take advantage of the means that will then be placed at their disposal for converting all privies into water-closets.

PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.—It will be seen from the evidence on the general condition of the town (Appendix, page 58) that there is a great want of privy accommodation in the poorer localities. These, as I have already stated, form no inconsiderable portion of the town, and although the whole of the 70 courts and alleys coming under the general denomination of small tenements may not be equally ill provided, there can be no doubt that a considerable proportion of them are greatly in want of proper accommodation.

It has been stated by Mr. Adams, "That as a general rule one privy serves for the common use of an entire court or alley." It would appear that 70 courts contain 529 houses, so that there is on an average from 7 to 8 houses in a court. As each is densely populated, it is evident that decent accommodation cannot exist where one privy has to serve for the common use of perhaps 30 or more individuals.

The following examples are taken from among the places brought under my notice in the course of the personal examination of the district:—

Rands's-court, North-street, contains 23 houses and 4 privies.

Jones's-court, South-street, contains 20 houses and 2 privies.

Meeting-house-yard, South-street, contains 12 houses and 1 privy. Under the same roof with the latter is the one pump from which the occupants of the 12 houses are supplied.

Child's-court, Chapel-row, contains 15 houses and 1 privy.

These are examples of the general state of the privy accommodation in the poorer quarters of the town, and ex-

perience has shown that such a state of things cannot exist without the physical and moral deterioration of the population.

In the better parts of the town each house is, with but few exceptions, provided with accommodation; but even in these cases the arrangements are far from good, owing to the want of proper sewerage and drainage. As I have stated in another part of my Report, the night-soil is discharged into cesspools, which are seldom, if ever, made impermeable, so that a considerable portion of their contents escape through and saturate the surrounding subsoil. Very few of the houses have water-closets; indeed, the expense of providing the required apparatus is so great as to prevent their general introduction. As there are no waterworks and no sewers, each landlord, before he can erect a water-closet, is obliged to provide a supply of water, a cistern, a force-pump, and the means of disposing of the night-soil.

THE SCAVENGING AND STREET CLEANSING.—The scavenging of the town is put up to public competition by the Commissioners. The present contractor is *Thomas Keene*, who stated,—

“That he was the contractor for the public scavenging and street cleansing, for which he received 29*l.* a year. He employed 5 men, 2 horses, and 2 carts. By the terms of his contract he was only required to visit the public courts and passages. The late contractor received 100*l.* a year. About 186 waggon-loads of soil were collected annually; after it was turned up and mixed it was sold at the rate of 9*s.* 6*d.* per waggon-load.”

It will be seen from this statement that a very considerable portion of the town is not scavenged by the authorities, who can only take cognizance of the public roads and thoroughfares; and as in the majority of instances the courts and yards inhabited by the poor do not come under this denomination, the Commissioners have no power to remove the house refuse in these localities. In my remarks on the pavement of the streets, I have stated that the houses situated in courts and yards amount to nearly one-third of all the dwellings in the town; and when it is considered that the houses of the poor are the most overcrowded and the worst provided with privies, or with any kind of accommodation for the removal of house refuse, it will be seen how much more these quarters of the town demand an efficient system of scavenging than those of a better class.

But in the place of such arrangements the occupants of the poorer houses are obliged to depend upon the casual visits of farmers or other persons who may need manure.

I need not say that all scavenging of this sort must be very imperfect, because the manure is carted away at any odd time that may suit the convenience of those who come for it.

In addition to the scavenging the Commissioners also provide for the street watering and the flushing of the sewers. The charges for these two objects were not given me in a separate form ; but the following are the gross sums spent in this way since 1845 :—

				£	s.	d.
1845	-	-	-	22	13	3
1846	-	-	-	33	3	0
1847	-	-	-	63	4	1
1848	-	-	-	77	17	6
1849	-	-	-	102	0	7
1850	-	-	-	205	17	1
				£504	15	6

It will be seen that the watering of the streets and the flushing of the sewers cost the Commissioners a considerable sum ; and that in 1851 it amounted to no less than about one-fifth of their total annual income. The charge also appears to be rapidly increasing in amount each year.

I by no means wish it to be inferred that I consider the Commissioners are spending more money than they ought in their attempts to keep the streets clean. On the contrary, they cannot exercise their powers or expend the funds at their disposal in a more legitimate manner. But my object in dwelling on the subject is to show that the town is paying a considerable sum annually in an ineffectual attempt to cure the evils of neglected sewerage and drainage, but with so little success that Mr. *Hoskins*, the chairman of the Committee of Nuisances, has said,—

“That it is impossible, with all their efforts, to keep the channels clean. They are, on the contrary, so unwholesome that persons are driven away from the town in consequence of the offensive exhalations which proceed from the filthy matter collected in the channels.”

It would appear, therefore, that whatever portion of the 200*l.* now laid out in street watering and the cleansing of the channels is expended on the latter object without effecting anything like a cure of the evil ; and I would urge upon those who may compare the cost of the present system with that contemplated in the Public Health Act, to consider that in flushing the surface channels, at least, the town is paying heavily for a very trivial and partial advantage.

THE LIGHTING.—The following statement respecting the lighting of Gosport was furnished to me by Mr. Neale. Other information on the same subject, but of a more detailed kind, will be found in the Appendix (page 69).

“The town is lighted with gas by a private Company, not incorporated by any Act of Parliament. The charge for gas to the private consumers is 7s. per 1,000 cuhe feet, and 6d. per 1,000 for the use of the meter. There are 76 lamps: the charge for lighting is 2*l.* 12s. 6d. per lamp per annum. The cost of the public lighting is defrayed by the Commissioners, who enter into a formal written contract with the Gas Company for that purpose. The lamps are lighted 9 months per annum, with the exception of 5 nights each month at full moon. The charge for gas is 6s. per 1,000. The Company constructed their works in 1834. Their capital was 6,000*l.*, in 240 shares of 25*l.* per share. Coals in Gosport average 18s. per ton. The works of the Company are at New Town, about half a mile from the Single Gate. The Company have laid about 5 miles of mains, varying from 2 to 5 inches diameter, in the town of Gosport, on the Forton-road, and on the road leading to Gosport. The coke realises the price of the coal. The dividend is about 8 per cent. Their main passes the head quarters of the Marines at Forton, but the gas has not been taken in, and oil and tallow are used. Haslar Hospital is lighted with oil, and there are no lamps on the roads outside the town.”

The Gas Company, however, are in a position to carry out this much-needed public convenience, as soon as they are required to do so by the authorities. At the time of the Inquiry the Company's mains extended along the Forton-road only, but since that time they have been laid along the Stoke-road also, a little beyond the road leading to the House of Industry; so that the Gas Company are in a position to light at any time both of these two leading thoroughfares.

Since the date of the inquiry the price of gas to private consumers has been reduced from 6s. 6d. to 6s., or to exactly one-half the price originally charged.

THE CONDITION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH LIBERTY.—I have not thought it necessary on the present occasion to give any detailed account of the condition of the houses in the villages of Alverstoke, Anglesey, Forton, or Elson, or those in the other outlying portions of the district. I prefer embodying in one general statement my remarks upon these places. I have already said that the jurisdiction of the Trustees of the Gosport Local Act is confined to the limits of the town, and that the numerous dwelling-houses in the outskirts, and in fact the whole of the remaining portion of the parish of Alverstoke, are under the control of the Highway Surveyors. But as the powers of this latter

body are of a very limited order, in all that respects sanitary arrangements at least, it follows as a matter of course that the drainage, the scavenging, the privy accommodation, and the like, are as bad, if not worse, than in the town of Gosport itself. The country round Gosport is much intersected by creeks and inlets running up from the sea; and these are generally made the receptacles for the sewage and liquid refuse which are discharged from the houses in the vicinity.

Thus, for instance, there is the Bishop's Mill Pond, which receives the contents of forty privies belonging to the houses in Nelson-place, as well as the sewage from the Military prison. The flow of the tide up the Bishop's Mill Pond prevents the discharge of the refuse from the Military prison except at low water, and at that time the smell is stated to be of the most offensive nature; and the evil is the greater because the outfall for the sewage is within a few feet of the main road.

I might give further examples; but this one will serve as a type of many other places of a similar kind in both the North and South Liberty portions of the parish.

There can be no doubt that if the Public Health Act were applied to the town of Gosport only, it would fail in accomplishing much of the benefit that may be expected to arise from its introduction. 1st, The population in the villages round Gosport is very considerable; and 2d, The extent and resources of these places are so limited as to render it impossible for any of them to take steps for their effectual drainage or water supply. But if the Act be applied to those portions of the parish of Alverstoke which are indicated upon the plan, both Gosport and the neighbouring villages will derive a mutual benefit from the arrangement,—the former will participate in the improvements to be carried out in the town, and the latter will obtain a more extended drainage area; and, if it should be required, a larger district for the purposes of the future water supply.

Moreover, the policy of the Public Health Act contemplates, as far as practicable, the union of districts and offices; because it is evident, that the more extended a district, and the smaller its staff of officers, and unavoidable working expenses, the cheaper will the cost of the works be to the ratepayers of the district; and in the present instance, this consideration is a highly important one, because of the large proportion of low rated houses in and about the town of Gosport.

I have purposely refrained from giving any particulars of the defective drainage or water supply of the district

round Gosport, because the want of any adequate means to construct the one, or of any company or public body to supply the other are in themselves sufficiently good reasons for the absence of these essentials to health and comfort.

With regard to the future improvement of the villages and scattered houses near the town, the remarks I have made on the drainage and water supply of Gosport itself will equally apply to the rest of the district to be brought under the operation of the Public Health Act. In both cases the same system will have to be followed, and the same means used for the improvement of every portion of the district, inasmuch as the evils of both are of a similar nature. In either case also, it is but reasonable to conclude that the promotion of sewage and drainage, the extension of a good and constant supply of water to every house, and the providing of decent privy accommodation, and an effective system of scavenging, will have the effect of elevating the social condition of the poorer classes, and of improving the general health and physical condition of all, whether rich or poor.

THE COST OF WORKS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.—In a former part of my Report I have noticed that a very large proportion of the houses in Gosport come under the denomination of “small tenements,” and I have also had occasion to point out that in too many cases these dwellings are in a very defective state. It is natural, therefore, that some hostility to the proposed application of the Public Health Act to the district should exist in the minds of the owners of property of this class, apprehensive as they must be that the provisions of that Act will involve an additional outlay on their side, though there may, on the other hand, be no corresponding increase in the rents to be derived from their tenants.

Assuming, however, that it is the duty of every owner of property to put it in a state which shall not be prejudicial to health, I would direct the attention of the proprietors of small class tenements to the following examples of the cost of works which have been actually completed; for by these it will be seen at how very small a cost, comparatively speaking, the houses of the poor can be abundantly supplied with water, and thoroughly and efficiently drained and sewered.

I purposely confine my examples to houses of the poorer class, because it is to them that the arguments of the opponents of the public health are chiefly confined. The works, I may state, have been executed during the present

year ; and I may also mention that the poor rate valuation in the town where the property is situated is made upon two-thirds of the gross rateable value only.

Twelve cottages have been supplied with water for domestic uses and flushing purposes ; twelve privies have been converted into water-closets, and all the requisite soil-pans, taps, valves, stop-cocks, bibs, and other fittings, have been furnished, for the sum of 21*l.*, or 1*l.* 15*s.* per cottage.

The complete and effectual drainage of the same property, including connexions with the main sewer, syphon-traps for sinks, and iron gratings for yards, has been done for 15*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, or 1*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* per cottage.

The united cost of the water supply and drainage of each cottage is, therefore, 3*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*

The cost of the public works of water supply and drainage in the town from which I have selected the above examples is defrayed by a special district rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, according to the poors rate assessment, which amounts to 34*l.* 2*s.* upon the above twelve cottages.

The water itself, which is of the best quality, and unlimited in quantity, is supplied for 1*d.* in the pound.

The total expenditure is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
The special district rate of 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> on 34 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i>	-	2	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
The water rate, at 1 <i>d.</i> in the pound	-	0	2 10
The private improvement rate, at 1 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> in the pound	-	2	15 10
Giving a total annual charge for the 12 cottages of	5	9	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Annual charge for each cottage of	-	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$

Or, a weekly charge per cottage of about 2*d.* only.

SUMMARY OF THE POWERS OF THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

I have inserted the following summary of some of the powers conferred by the Public Health Act upon the Local Board of Health in every district where it is applied :—

To undertake the removal (in case of default on the part of any owner or occupier) of dust, ashes, rubbish, filth, manure, dung, or soil collected in any house, stable, or place.

To regulate the time and manner of emptying water-closets, privies, and cesspools.

To prevent or diminish the nuisances caused by the recent establishment of offensive trades.

To have the management of all slaughter-houses.

To regulate the number of occupants, and promote the cleanliness and ventilation of common lodging-houses.

To repair all sewers vested by the Public Health Act in the Local Board, and to cause such sewers to be made as may be required for effectually draining the district.

To cause all drains, water-closets, privies, and cesspools to be constructed, covered, and kept so as not to be a nuisance or injurious to health, and to be properly cleared, cleansed, and emptied.

To see that no house shall be built or rebuilt without a covered drain of a suitable size and fall for effectual drainage.

To approve of the level of the lowest floor, and the situation and construction of the privies to be built in connexion with any house newly built or rebuilt.

To give authority in writing to the surveyor to examine premises, with reference to the state of any drain, water closet, privy, cesspool, and ashpit.

To provide conveniences for the temporary deposit and collection of dust, ashes, and rubbish, and the deposit of the sewage, dung, &c. collected by the Board.

To provide and maintain, if they think fit, water-closets, privies, and other similar conveniences for public accommodation.

To cause a water-closet, or privy, and ashpit furnished with proper doors and coverings, to be erected at the owner's expense, in any house (whether built before or after this time) which shall, on the surveyor's report, appear to be destitute of this convenience.

To provide that all the streets within the district, including the foot-pavements, are properly swept, cleansed, and watered, and the dust, ashes, rubbish, filth, dung, and soil therein, collected and removed.

To drain, cleanse, cover, or fill up, at the owner's or occupier's expense, all ponds, pools, open ditches, sewers, drains, and places used for the collection of any drainage, filth, water, matter, or thing of an offensive nature, or likely to be prejudicial to health, with power to pay the whole or part of these expenses out of the special or general district rates.

To order the removal within twenty-four hours of any nuisance arising from swine or any pig-stye being kept so as to be a nuisance to any person.

To proceed against any person who shall allow the contents of any water-closet, privy, or cesspool to overflow or soak therefrom.

To take proceedings against the owner or occupier of any house which, on the certificate of the officer of health, shall appear to be in such a filthy or unwholesome condition that the health of any persons is affected or endangered thereby, or that the whitewashing, cleansing, or purifying thereof would tend to prevent or check infectious or contagious disease.

To prevent the occupation of cellars as dwelling-houses, unless certain conditions be attended to.

To cause all highways to be levelled, paved, flagged, channelled, altered, and re-paved, as and when occasion shall require.

To compel the owners or occupiers of premises fronting, adjoining, or abutting upon any street, (not now being a highway) to put the same into proper repair, and to declare any street, not now being a highway, which shall be sewered, levelled, paved, flagged, and channelled, to the satisfaction of the Local Board, to be a highway, unless the proprietors shall object thereto.

To contract for lighting the streets, roads, and other open places, markets, and public buildings within the district, as authorized by the confirmatory Act.

To fix the level and width of every new street.

To purchase property for widening or improving any street.

To provide, with the consent of the General Board, public walks or pleasure grounds.

To provide such a supply of water as shall be sufficient for the purposes of the Act, and to lease or purchase any waterworks, or to construct waterworks, unless any Waterworks Company shall be willing to supply water upon terms certified to be reasonable by the General Board, or settled by arbitration, with power to require every house to be supplied with water, where it can be furnished at a rate not exceeding 2*d.* per week; and to construct works for the gratuitous supply of water to public baths or washhouses.

To purchase or lease, by agreement, any land or premises for the purposes of the Act.

CONCLUSIONS.

The statements contained in the foregoing Report are, in my judgment, such as to warrant me in drawing the following conclusions:—

I. That the parish of Alverstoke contains within its limits the town of Gosport, and the neighbouring villages of Elson, Brookhurst, Forton, and Alverstoke, to all of which it is

expedient that the Public Health Act should be applied, but that the agricultural portions of the parish may be exempted from its provisions.

II. That there is at present no adequate means for the prevention of the many evils which are in existence in the above-named places ; for even at Gosport, over which alone the Trustees acting under the Local Act have any jurisdiction, they have no powers to make sewers, or compel their construction by owners of property ; neither have they any control over the water supply, or the means of regulating the discharge of the sewage, whilst in the neighbouring villages the Highway Surveyors are the only public body who have any jurisdiction in matters of a sanitary nature.

III. That the inadequate means possessed by the Trustees of the Gosport Local Act are sufficiently shown by the present condition of the town ; for although there is every disposition on the part of the Trustees to practically apply the provisions of this Act, it was found, at the time of the inquiry, that many of the streets and courts inhabited by the poorer classes were in a very bad state.

IV. That the chief evils were,—

- i. Defective paving, in the poorer quarters of the town more especially.
- ii. An absence of proper arrangements for surface cleansing, and the removal of house refuse.
- iii. A total want of proper underground sewerage.
- iv. An equally general absence of all proper house drainage.
- v. A general want of good and wholesome water in the houses of the poor, although the district abounds in wells, affording a copious yield of water, which only requires the application of a proper system to render them available for affording the district the benefits of a pure, constant, and wholesome supply of the nature of that contemplated in the provisions of the Public Health Act.
- vi. A want of decent privy accommodation in the courts and alleys of the poorer quarters of the town.
- vii. The general existence, in all parts of the town, of cesspools, built of permeable materials, to receive the nightsoil, which, under a better system, would be carried off by under-ground drainage, but which the inhabitants are now compelled to store up in the immediate vicinity of their houses, where it pollutes the surrounding subsoil, and the water of shallow wells, from which many of the inhabitants draw a

considerable part of their supply of water for personal and domestic uses.

- viii. A want of attention to the cleanly or wholesome condition of some of the slaughter-houses, which may be easily accounted for by the absence of a proper supply of water, or the means of under-ground drainage.
- ix. That the whole of the above evils are to be met with in the adjoining villages of Elson, Brockhurst, Forton, and Alverstoke, as much as in the town of Gosport, though their extent and intensity are necessarily diminished by the limited population of the former, and by the natural advantages that, in a sanitary point of view, at least, a village must always have over a town.
- x. That amongst other evils caused by the absence of proper sewerage and house drainage, one of the chief of them arises from the present state of the moats on the southern and western portions of the town, which are greatly contaminated by being made the receptacles for the sewage and other offensive refuse, which are now discharged into them; but that a great and marked improvement in the state of the moats must take place, when proper sewers are laid down throughout the district.
- xi. That the burial-ground of Trinity Church is too small for the increasing parts of the town, and it is, therefore, desirable that a general cemetery should be established in some suitable and well selected site.
- xii. That as there is no adequate means now existing to remove or remedy the above-named evils and defects, and as it is the object of the Public Health Act to effect these desirable results in the most effectual and economical manner, I therefore beg respectfully to recommend to your Honourable Board—

1. That the Public Health Act (1848), except Section 50, be applied not to the parish of Alverstoke, but to the district inclosed by the red line upon the plan prefixed to the Report; as, however, this is not co-extensive with that from which the petition for the inquiry emanated, and has not a known and defined boundary, it will be necessary to hold a second inquiry, to determine the boundary of the future district.

2. That the Local Board of Health, to be elected under the 14th Section of the Act, consist of 12 persons, and that the entire number be elected for the whole of the above-

described district, one-third of whom shall go out of office on the 25th of March in each year subsequent to that in which the said election takes place.

3. That every person, at the time of his election as a member of the Local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election, be resident as by the 16th Section of the said Public Health Act (1848) is required, and be seised or possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value of 1,000*l.*, or be rated to the relief of the poor of some township, parish, or place, of which some part is within the said district, upon an annual value of not less than 20*l.*

4. That fourteen days previous notice of qualification, as by the 20th section of the Public Health Act (1848) is required, be given by all owners of property, to entitle them to vote at the first election of the Local Board.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM RANGER,
Superintending Inspector.

*The General Board of Health,
Whitehall.*

A P P E N D I X.

COPY OF THE PETITION.

To the General Board of Health, Gwydyr House, Whitehall,
Westminster.

WE the undersigned, being one tenth of the inhabitants rated to the relief of the poor for the parish of Alverstoke, in the county of Hampshire, do hereby, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the "Public Health Act, 1848," petition your Honourable Board to direct a Superintending Inspector to visit the said parish of Alverstoke, in the county of Hampshire, and to make public inquiry and report thereon, as in and by the said Act is provided, to the end that the said Act may be put in force within the said parish of Alverstoke, which includes within it the town of Gosport, Forton, Bury, Haslar, Anglesea, Stoke, Elson, Hardway, Brockhurst, &c., containing, according to the census of 1851, 16,353 inhabitants.

Dated this thirtieth day September 1851.

Signed by 151 ratepayers and 67 poorer inhabitants.

PERSONS PRESENT DURING THE INQUIRY.

Rev. F. Meadows, Rev. J. Tanner, Rev. W. H. Neale, Rev. T. Walpole, Rev. T. Greenland, Dr. Mortimer, Captain Yates, Messrs. Wyatt, Hobbs, Wilkinson, Taylor, W. Paul, jun., E. Hoskins, Adams, Denton, Rogers, Cruickshank, T. Hoskins, H. Compigné, Abraham, Frisby, Whitehall, Hepworth, Duke, Battershell, Parker, Walton, Hobbs, jun., Millidge, Smith, Parker, jun., Chubb, Fancey, Binsted, Foster, Hyde, Neale, Card, Kay, Hyslop, Brenton, jun., Byles, Jos. Hall, S. Smith, King, Cook, Hammond, Lear, Stead, Field, King, jun., Barker, Grant, Langtry, Millett, W. Paul, sen., Leane, Edwards, Storey, Butt, Burrell, Hill, Dore, Soaper, Meredith, Tyler, Thompson, D. Compigné (as Clerk to Trustees), J. Frisby (Beadle and Collector), Norris, Blake, Keene, Garrett, Legg, Luff, Hobbs, sen., Todman, Bailey, Wright, Sheath, Glenfield, Monk, Slaughter, Short, Stevens, Bone, Coombes, Batchelor, Woodrow, Lacy, Horn, W. Hobbs, White, Arrowsmith, Ridoutt, Abbinett, Hall, Dashwood, Woolgar, Carter, Whitcombe, Brenton, sen., Tucker, Perriman, Hines, Wallis, Hooper, Macey, Emery, Wells, Gray, Attrill, Tyler, Davies, Ross, Camper, Reporter to "Portsmouth Telegraph," Reporter to "Portsmouth Times."

RETURNS, &c. RELATING TO THE POOR RATES.

		£	s.	d.
Rateable value of South Town	-	4,833	0	0
„ North Town	-	5,708	11	0
„ South Liberty	-	9,965	5	7
„ North Liberty	-	8,371	8	3
		£ 28,878	4	10

NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS.

	South Town.	North Town.	South Liberty.	North Liberty.	Total.
Under £ 1	3	1	4	6	14
„ 2	85	49	25	24	183
„ 3	172	191	35	104	502
„ 4	96	139	89	125	449
„ 5	77	69	156	89	391
„ 6	83	48	145	113	389
„ 7	70	40	92	161	363
„ 8	30	47	43	20	140
„ 9	27	37	29	43	136
„ 10	19	30	11	38	98
Above 10	125	189	197	119	630
	787	840	826	842	3,295

4-roomed houses are generally rated at 4*l*. net.

6 „ „ 6*l*. net.

8 „ „ from 10*l* to 12*l*. net.

The net sum is one-fifth less than the gross.

POOR RATE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

From the 26th of March 1848 to the 25th of March 1849.

RECEIVED.				EXPENDED.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand	- 229	5	8½	Out-door relief, removals, &c.	1,543	19	0
Total receipts	- 4,047	5	1	Repairs	- 87	18	4½
				Sundries	- 66	17	10
				Rates and subscriptions	- 929	3	6
				Salaries of officers	- 380	0	0
				Printing, stationery, registration of births, beer, sundries, &c. &c.	- 297	2	1
				Repairs of the Hard	- 18	6	8
				Clothing for the poor	- 132	2	8½
				Coals and wood	- 39	11	8
				Provisions for the poor for one year	- 675	5	3½
				Balance in hand carried down	106	3	7½
	£ 4,276	10	9½		£ 4,276	10	9½

From the 26th of March 1849 to the 25th of March 1850.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand				Out-door relief, removals, &c.	1,519	1	10
brought down -	106	3	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	Building and repairs -	192	16	0
Total receipts -	4,450	4	11	Sundries -	149	11	10
				Rates and subscriptions -	819	5	11
				Salaries of officers -	351	2	0
				Cholera and sanitary expenditure -	149	2	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
				Printing, stationery, registration of births, beer, sundries, &c. &c. -	275	9	0
				Repairs of the Hard -	35	17	6
				Paid off two bonds -	100	0	0
				Clothing for the poor -	87	19	3
				Coals and wood -	47	4	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
				Provisions for the poor for one year -	616	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
				Balance in hand carried down	212	8	11
	<u>£ 4,556</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6$\frac{3}{4}$</u>		<u>£ 4,556</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

Mr. *Abrahams* stated that,—

		£	s.	d.
An 8d. rate produced in the	South Town -	140	14	0
"	North Town -	165	1	8
"	South Liberty -	297	15	4
"	North Liberty -	237	15	7
	Total -	£ 841	6	7

The poor rates for 1851 amounted to about 3s. in the pound, or 2,523*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

THE LOCAL ACTS.

H. Compigné, Esq., Clerk to the Trustees for paving and lighting, said, "That the Local Act, which was unopposed, cost 613*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, but of this sum 173*l.* 3*s.* was made up by the private contributions of some of the inhabitants. The Trustees were empowered by the terms of this Act to borrow the sum of 2,500*l.*, but they had not raised more than 2,050*l.* In the first instance, interest was paid at the rate of 5 per cent., but it has been since reduced to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The accounts of the Trustees are published and circulated amongst the ratepayers.

The gross expenditure for the last six years has been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1845 - - - -	760	15	10
1846 - - - -	866	19	11
1847 - - - -	725	2	8
1848 - - - -	864	5	7
1849 - - - -	986	0	2
1850 - - - -	1,196	6	3
	<u>£ 5,399</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>

The following are some of the principal items on which the above amounts have been expended :—

Year.	For paving.	For lighting.	For street watering and flushing gutters.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1845	233 8 5	190 0 0	22 13 3
1846	217 15 3	190 0 0	33 3 0
1847	184 12 8	190 0 0	63 4 1
1848	341 11 9	190 0 0	77 17 6
1849	142 17 6	190 0 0	102 0 7
1850	521 14 7	194 0 0	205 17 1
	1,642 0 2	1,144 0 0	504 15 6

STATEMENT OF MONEYS BORROWED AND REPAID ON GOSPORT-STREET ROAD.

Sums borrowed :	£	Sums borrowed brought forward	£
1814 - - -	950	- - -	2,600
1815 - - -	50		
1817 - - -	100	Sums repaid:	£
1831 - - -	250	1820 - - -	100
1832 - - -	200	1821 - - -	150
1833 - - -	100	1822 - - -	200
1834 - - -	350	1823 - - -	100
1840 - - -	600		550
	<u>£ 2,600</u>	Present amount of securities on the rates	<u>- £ 2,050</u>

INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the Trustees for Paving, Watching, and Lighting, from the 25th of December 1849 to the 25th of December 1850 :—

RECEIVED.				EXPENDED.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rates - - -	1,196	6	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Balance of last year's account	39	16	9
				Interest on 2,050 <i>l.</i> borrowed on credit of the rates, at 4 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per cent. per annum	92	5	0
				On account of paving and repairing - - -	521	14	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
				Iron plates, rent, printing, repairs, &c. - - -	27	11	5
				Salary to clerk and treasurer	50	0	0
				Salary to beadle and collector	40	0	0
				Contractor for lighting the public lamps - - -	194	0	0
				Scavenger, and for extra work Watering the streets and flushing the gutters - - -	106	0	0
				Solicitor's bill - - -	93	17	4
				Trustees of almshouses, for 6 years annuity for part of new road - - -	16	1	2
					15	0	0
	<u>£ 1,196</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2$\frac{3}{4}$</u>		<u>£ 1,196</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

The following is a List of Acting Trustees under the Local Act:
 The Rev. Richard Bingham, Rev. Edward Burney, Rev. Frederick W. Meadows, Dr. Henry C. Burney, Dr. John Mortimer, Captain Thomas Potter, Captain Richard Fegen, Captain George C. Blake, James Adams, Robert Cruickshank, James Crook, Andrew Hewson, Thomas Hoskins, James Hoskins, John Jenkins, William Page, Edward Paddon, Gay Shute, John Meredith, Esqrs. Messrs. Jas. B. Harding, James Hepworth, James Biden, William Parker, Benjamin Hobbs, John Paul, Josiah Hall, Edward Millidge, James Thorngate, George Legg, James Crook, jun., Arthur Wright, George Vinson, and Thomas Walton.

The following is a list of the Local Acts in force within the parish of Alverstoke :—

No. 1. 10 Will. III. c. 41, "An Act for confirming a lease granted by the Lord Bishop of Winchester, of a parcel of waste ground in Alverstoke, in the county of Southampton, for the erecting of waterworks thereon, and for improving the same."

No. 2. 3 Geo. III. c. 56, "An Act for the better paving of the streets, and for preventing nuisances and other annoyances in the town of Gosport, in the county of Southampton."

No. 3. 49 Geo. III. c. 190, "An Act for the better government of the watermen working on the passage between Gosport, Portsmouth, and Portsea, and other places within Portsmouth Harbour, and to and from Spithead, St. Helens, and other places within the Isle of Wight, in the county of Southampton, and to and from certain places in the said Island; and for regulating the fares of such watermen."

No. 4. 52 Geo. III. c. 78, "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act of the 49th year of His present Majesty for the better government of watermen working on the passage between Gosport, Portsmouth, and Portsea, and other places within Portsmouth Harbour, and to and from Spithead, St. Helens, and other places within the Isle of Wight, in the county of Southampton, and to and from certain places in the said Island; and for regulating the fares of such watermen."

No. 5. 51 Geo. III. c. 172, "An Act for erecting a new market place in the town or borough and manor of Gosport, in the county of Southampton."

No. 6. 9 Geo. IV. c. 14, "An Act to amend the last Act."

No. 7. 54 Geo. III. c. 20, "An Act for lighting, watching, and cleansing the town of Gosport, in the county of Southampton, and for amending and rendering more effectual an Act passed in the 3d year of His present Majesty for better paving the streets, and preventing nuisances and annoyances in the said town."

No. 8. 1 & 2 Viet. c. 2, "An Act for establishing a floating-bridge or bridges over the Harbour of Portsmouth, from or near a place called Gosport Beach, in the parish of Alverstoke, in the county of Southampton, to the opposite shore to or near a place called Portsmouth Point, in the parish of Portsmouth, in the said county, with proper approaches thereto."

No. 9. 3 Viet. c. 54, "An Act for amending and enlarging the above Act."

No. 10. 5 Viet. c. 32, "An Act for making a pier at Gosport, in the parish of Alverstoke, in the county of Southampton."

The following are some of the principal items on which the above amounts have been expended :—

Year.	For paving.			For lighting.			For street watering and flushing gutters.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1845	233	8	5	190	0	0	22	13	3
1846	217	15	3	190	0	0	33	3	0
1847	184	12	8	190	0	0	63	4	1
1848	341	11	9	190	0	0	77	17	6
1849	142	17	6	190	0	0	102	0	7
1850	521	14	7	194	0	0	205	17	1
	1,642	0	2	1,144	0	0	504	15	6

STATEMENT OF MONEYS BORROWED AND REPAID ON GOSPORT-STREET ROAD.

Sums borrowed :			£	Sums borrowed brought forward			£
1814	-	-	950	-	-	-	2,600
1815	-	-	50				
1817	-	-	100	Sums repaid:			£
1831	-	-	250	1820	-	-	100
1832	-	-	200	1821	-	-	150
1833	-	-	100	1822	-	-	200
1834	-	-	350	1828	-	-	100
1840	-	-	600				550
			<u>£2,600</u>	Present amount of securities on the rates			<u>£2,050</u>

INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the Trustees for Paving, Watching, and Lighting, from the 25th of December 1849 to the 25th of December 1850 :—

RECEIVED.				EXPENDED.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rates	-	-	1,196 6 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Balance of last year's account	39	16	9
				Interest on 2,050 <i>l.</i> borrowed on credit of the rates, at 4 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per cent. per annum	92	5	0
				On account of paving and repairing	521	14	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
				Iron plates, rent, printing, repairs, &c.	27	11	5
				Salary to clerk and treasurer	50	0	0
				Salary to beadle and collector	40	0	0
				Contractor for lighting the public lamps	194	0	0
				Scavenger, and for extra work	106	0	0
				Watering the streets and flushing the gutters	93	17	4
				Solicitor's bill	16	1	2
				Trustees of almshouses, for 6 years annuity for part of new road	15	0	0

The following is a List of Acting Trustees under the Local Act :
The Rev. Richard Bingham, Rev. Edward Burney, Rev. Frederick W. Meadows, Dr. Henry C. Burney, Dr. John Mortimer, Captain Thomas Potter, Captain Richard Fegen, Captain George C. Blake, James Adams, Robert Cruickshank, James Crook, Andrew Hewson, Thomas Hoskins, James Hoskins, John Jenkins, William Page, Edward Paddon, Gay Shute, John Meredith, Esqrs. Messrs. Jas. B. Harding, James Hepworth, James Biden, William Parker, Benjamin Hobbs, John Paul, Josiah Hall, Edward Millidge, James Thorngate, George Legg, James Crook, jun., Arthur Wright, George Vinson, and Thomas Walton.

The following is a list of the Local Acts in force within the parish of Alverstoke :—

No. 1. 10 Will. III. c. 41, "An Act for confirming a lease granted by the Lord Bishop of Winchester, of a parcel of waste ground in Alverstoke, in the county of Southampton, for the erecting of waterworks thereon, and for improving the same."

No. 2. 3 Geo. III. c. 56, "An Act for the better paving of the streets, and for preventing nuisances and other annoyances in the town of Gosport, in the county of Southampton."

No. 3. 49 Geo. III. c. 190, "An Act for the better government of the watermen working on the passage between Gosport, Portsmouth, and Portsea, and other places within Portsmouth Harbour, and to and from Spithead, St. Helens, and other places within the Isle of Wight, in the county of Southampton, and to and from certain places in the said Island ; and for regulating the fares of such watermen."

No. 4. 52 Geo. III. c. 78, "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act of the 49th year of His present Majesty for the better government of watermen working on the passage between Gosport, Portsmouth, and Portsea, and other places within Portsmouth Harbour, and to and from Spithead, St. Helens, and other places within the Isle of Wight, in the county of Southampton, and to and from certain places in the said Island ; and for regulating the fares of such watermen."

No. 5. 51 Geo. III. c. 172, "An Act for erecting a new market place in the town or borough and manor of Gosport, in the county of Southampton."

No. 6. 9 Geo. IV. c. 14, "An Act to amend the last Act."

No. 7. 54 Geo. III. c. 20, "An Act for lighting, watching, and cleansing the town of Gosport, in the county of Southampton, and for amending and rendering more effectual an Act passed in the 3d year of His present Majesty for better paving the streets, and preventing nuisances and annoyances in the said town."

No. 8. 1 & 2 Viet. c. 2, "An Act for establishing a floating-bridge or bridges over the Harbour of Portsmouth, from or near a place called Gosport Beach, in the parish of Alverstoke, in the county of Southampton, to the opposite shore to or near a place called Portsmouth Point, in the parish of Portsmouth, in the said county, with proper approaches thereto."

RETURN OF DEATHS, 1849.

District of Alverstoke, County of Southampton.

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
ALL CAUSES - - -	222	298	116	636
SPECIFIED CAUSES - - -	198	272	93	563
I.—Zymotic diseases - - -	123	97	21	241
SPORADIC DISEASES :—				
II.—Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat - }	4	7	10	21
III.—Tubercular diseases - - -	13	88	—	101
IV.—Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses - }	21	20	14	55
V.—Diseases of the heart and blood- vessels - - - }	—	9	3	12
VI.—Diseases of the lungs, and of the other organs of respiration - }	11	22	15	48
VII.—Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion }	8	12	5	25
VIII.—Diseases of the kidneys, &c. -	—	2	—	2
IX.—Childbirth, diseases of the uterus, &c. - - - }	—	—	—	—
X.—Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c. - - }	—	—	—	—
XI.—Diseases of the skin, cellular tissue, &c. - - - }	—	—	—	—
XII.—Malformations - - -	1	—	—	1
XIII.—Premature birth and debility -	10	2	2	14
XIV.—Atrophy - - -	5	—	—	5
XV.—Age - - -	—	—	19	19
XVI.—Sudden - - -	2	1	—	3
XVII.—Violence, privation, cold, and in- temperance - - - }	—	12	4	16

Return of Deaths, 1849—continued.

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
I.—Small-pox - - - -	36	2	—	38
Measles - - - -	1	—	—	1
Scarlatina - - - -	22	1	—	23
Hooping cough - - - -	—	—	—	—
Croup - - - -	1	—	—	1
Thrush - - - -	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa - - - -	15	7	2	24
Dysentery - - - -	—	4	1	5
Cholera - - - -	41	66	17	124
Influenza - - - -	—	—	—	—
Purpura and scurvy - - -	—	—	—	—
Ague - - - -	—	—	—	—
Remittent fever - - - -	—	—	—	—
Infantile fever - - - -	—	—	—	—
Typhus - - - -	5	10	1	16
Metria or puerperal fever -	—	2	—	2
Rheumatic fever - - - -	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas - - - -	1	4	—	5
Syphilis - - - -	—	1	—	1
Noma or canker - - - -	—	—	—	—
Hydrophobia - - - -	—	—	—	—
II.—Hæmorrhage - - - -	—	—	—	—
Dropsy - - - -	13	3	6	12
Abscess - - - -	1	3	2	6
Ulcer - - - -	—	—	1	1
Fistula - - - -	—	1	—	1
Mortification - - - -	—	—	—	—
Cancer - - - -	—	—	—	—
Gout - - - -	—	—	1	1
III.—Scrofula - - - -	—	3	—	3
Tabes mesenterica - - - -	3	—	—	3
Phthisis (or consumption) -	4	85	—	89
Hydrocephalus - - - -	6	—	—	6
IV.—Cephalitis - - - -	—	1	—	1
Apoplexy - - - -	—	8	7	15
Paralysis - - - -	—	4	4	8
Delirium tremens - - - -	—	—	—	—
Chorea - - - -	—	—	—	—
Epilepsy - - - -	—	1	—	1
Tetanus - - - -	—	—	—	—
Insanity - - - -	—	—	—	—
Convulsions - - - -	18	3	1	22
Diseases of brain, &c. - -	3	3	2	8
V.—Pericarditis - - - -	—	3	—	3
Aneurism - - - -	—	2	—	2
Disease of heart - - - -	—	4	8	7
VI.—Laryngitis - - - -	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis - - - -	4	6	10	20
Pleurisy - - - -	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia - - - -	6	9	1	16
Asthma - - - -	—	1	3	4
Disease of lungs, &c. - -	1	5	1	7

Return of Deaths, 1849—*continued.*

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
VII.—Teething - - - -	3	—	—	3
Quinsey - - - -	—	—	—	—
Gastritis - - - -	1	1	—	2
Enteritis - - - -	2	1	—	3
Peritonitis - - - -	1	3	2	6
Ascites - - - -	—	2	1	3
Ulceration (of intestines, &c.) -	—	4	—	4
Hernia - - - -	—	—	1	1
Ileus - - - -	—	—	—	—
Intussusception - - - -	—	—	—	—
Stricture (of the intestinal canal) -	—	—	—	—
Disease of stomach, &c. - -	1	—	—	1
Disease of pancreas - - - -	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis - - - -	—	1	1	2
Jaundice - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of liver - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of spleen - - - -	—	—	—	—
VIII.—Nephritis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Nephria (or Bright's disease) -	—	—	—	—
Ishuria - - - -	—	—	—	—
Diabetes - - - -	—	1	—	1
Stone - - - -	—	—	—	—
Cystitis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Stricture of the urethra - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of kidneys, &c. - -	—	1	—	1
IX.—Paramenia - - - -	—	—	—	—
Ovarian dropsy - - - -	—	—	—	—
Childbirth. <i>See</i> Metria - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of uterus, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
X.—Arthritis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Rheumatism - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of joints, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
XI.—Carbuncle - - - -	—	—	—	—
Phlegmon - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of skin, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
XVII.—Intemperance - - - -	—	3	—	3
Privation of food - - - -	—	—	—	—
Want of breast-milk - - - -	—	—	—	—
Neglect - - - -	—	—	—	—
Cold - - - -	—	—	—	—
Poison - - - -	—	—	1	1
Burns and scalds - - - -	—	—	—	—
Hanging, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
Drowning - - - -	—	4	—	4
Fractures and contusions - -	—	4	2	6
Wounds - - - -	—	1	1	2
Other violence - - - -	—	—	—	—
Causes not specified - - -	24	26	23	73

RETURN OF DEATHS, 1850.

District of Alverstoke, in the County of Southampton.

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards	
ALL CAUSES - - -	117	204	96	417
SPECIFIED CAUSES - - -	97	185	73	355
I.—Zymotic diseases - -	19	11	2	32
SPORADIC DISEASES:—				
II.—Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases } of uncertain or variable seat - }	3	13	2	18
III.—Tubercular diseases - -	17	88	2	107
IV.—Diseases of the brain, spinal } marrow, nerves, and senses - }	14	25	20	59
V.—Diseases of the heart and blood- } vessels - - - }	—	3	4	7
VI.—Diseases of the lungs, and of the } other organs of respiration - }	17	20	13	50
VII.—Diseases of the stomach, liver, } and other organs of digestion }	19	10	4	24
VIII.—Diseases of the kidneys, &c. -	—	3	—	3
IX.—Childbirth, diseases of the uterus, } &c. - - - }	—	—	—	—
X.—Rheumatism, diseases of the } bones, joints, &c. - - }	—	—	—	—
XI.—Diseases of the skin, cellular } tissue, &c. - - - }	—	—	1	1
XII.—Malformations - - -	1	—	—	1
XIII.—Premature birth and debility -	12	—	4	16
XIV.—Atrophy - - -	3	2	—	5
XV.—Age - - -	—	—	17	17
XVI.—Sudden - - -	—	2	3	5
XVII.—Violence, privation, cold, and in- } temperance - - - }	1	8	1	10

Return of Deaths, 1850—*continued.*

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
I.—Small-pox - - - -	—	—	—	—
Measles - - - -	2	—	—	2
Scarlatina - - - -	3	—	—	3
Hooping cough - - - -	1	—	—	1
Croup - - - -	1	—	—	1
Thrush - - - -	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa - - - -	9	—	2	11
Dysentery - - - -	—	4	—	4
Cholera - - - -	1	—	—	1
Influenza - - - -	—	—	—	—
Purpura and scurvy - - - -	—	—	—	—
Ague - - - -	—	—	—	—
Remittent fever - - - -	—	—	—	—
Infantile fever - - - -	—	—	—	—
Typhus - - - -	—	3	—	3
Metria or puerperal fever - - - -	—	1	—	1
Rheumatic fever - - - -	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas - - - -	1	2	—	3
Syphilis - - - -	1	—	—	1
Noma or canker - - - -	—	—	—	—
Hydrophobia - - - -	—	—	—	—
II.—Hæmorrhage - - - -	2	—	—	2
Dropsy - - - -	1	6	—	7
Abscess - - - -	—	5	—	5
Ulcer - - - -	—	—	—	—
Fistula - - - -	—	—	—	—
Mortification - - - -	—	—	1	1
Cancer - - - -	—	2	1	3
Gout - - - -	—	—	—	—
III.—Scrofula - - - -	—	3	—	3
Tabes mesenterica - - - -	8	5	—	13
Phthisis (or consumption) - - - -	4	80	2	86
Hydrocephalus - - - -	5	—	—	5
IV.—Cephalitis - - - -	1	1	—	2
Apoplexy - - - -	—	4	10	14
Paralysis - - - -	—	10	19	29
Delirium tremens - - - -	—	—	—	—
Chorea - - - -	—	—	—	—
Epilepsy - - - -	—	3	—	3
Tetanus - - - -	—	—	—	—
Insanity - - - -	—	2	—	2
Convulsions - - - -	13	1	—	14
Disease of brain, &c. - - - -	—	4	1	5
V.—Pericarditis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Aneurism - - - -	—	1	—	1
Disease of heart - - - -	—	2	4	6
VI.—Laryngitis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis - - - -	2	6	9	17
Pleurisy - - - -	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia - - - -	14	7	—	21
Asthma - - - -	—	—	1	1
Disease of lungs, &c. - - - -	1	6	2	9

Return of Deaths, 1850—continued.

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
VII.—Teething - - - -	7	—	—	7
Quinsey - - - -	—	—	—	—
Gastritis - - - -	1	3	1	5
Enteritis - - - -	—	1	—	1
Peritonitis - - - -	1	3	2	6
Ascites - - - -	—	1	—	1
Ulceration of intestines, &c. -	—	—	—	—
Hernia - - - -	—	—	—	—
Ileus - - - -	—	—	—	—
Intussusception - - - -	—	—	—	—
Stricture of the intestinal canal -	—	—	—	—
Disease of stomach, &c. -	1	—	—	1
Disease of pancreas - - - -	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis - - - -	—	—	1	1
Jaundice - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of liver - - - -	—	1	—	1
Disease of spleen - - - -	—	1	—	1
VIII.—Nephritis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Nephria (or Bright's disease) -	—	2	—	2
Ischuria - - - -	—	—	—	—
Diabetes - - - -	—	1	—	1
Stone - - - -	—	—	—	—
Cystitis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Stricture of the uretha - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of kidneys, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
IX.—Paramenia - - - -	—	—	—	—
Ovarian dropsy - - - -	—	—	—	—
Childbirth, see Metria - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of uterus, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
X.—Arthritis - - - -	—	—	—	—
Rheumatism - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of joints, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
XI.—Carbuncle - - - -	—	—	1	1
Phlegmon - - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of skin, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
XVII.—Intemperance - - - -	—	—	—	—
Privation of food - - - -	—	—	—	—
Want of breast-milk - - - -	—	—	—	—
Neglect - - - -	—	—	—	—
Cold - - - -	—	—	—	—
Poison - - - -	—	—	—	—
Burns and scalds - - - -	—	—	—	—
Hanging, &c. - - - -	—	—	—	—
Drowning - - - -	1	1	—	2
Fractures and contusions - - - -	—	3	—	3
Wounds - - - -	—	3	1	4
Other violence - - - -	—	1	—	1
Causes not specified - - - -	20	19	23	62

RETURN OF DEATHS, 1851.

District of Alverstoke, in the County of Southampton.

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
ALL CAUSES - - - -	139	252	86	477
SPECIFIED CAUSES - - -	110	219	65	394
I.—Zymotic diseases - -	33	11	3	47
SPORADIC DISEASES :—				
II.—Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat - }	2	12	7	21
III.—Tubercular diseases - -	12	121	3	136
IV.—Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses - }	21	16	12	49
V.—Diseases of the heart and blood- vessels - - - }	3	8	1	12
VI.—Diseases of the lungs, and of the other organs of respiration - }	17	23	14	54
VII.—Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion }	3	10	6	19
VIII.—Diseases of the kidneys, &c. -	—	3	—	3
IX.—Childbirth, diseases of the uterus, &c. - - - }	—	1	—	1
X.—Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c. - - }	—	2	—	2
XI.—Diseases of the skin, cellular tissue, &c. - - - }	1	—	1	2
XII.—Malformations - - -	—	—	—	—
XIII.—Premature birth and debility -	7	2	2	11
XIV.—Atrophy - - -	8	1	—	9
XV.—Age - - -	—	—	15	15
XVI.—Sudden - - -	—	—	—	—
XVII.—Violence, privation, cold, and in- temperance - - - }	3	9	1	13

Return of Deaths, 1851—continued.

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
I.—Small-pox - - -	—	—	—	—
Measles - - -	1	—	—	1
Scarlatina - - -	6	1	—	7
Hooping cough - - -	3	—	—	3
Croup - - -	2	—	—	2
Thrush - - -	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa - - -	13	1	1	15
Dysentery - - -	1	—	—	1
Cholera - - -	6	—	—	6
Influenza - - -	—	1	—	1
Purpura and scurvy - - -	—	—	—	—
Ague - - -	—	—	—	—
Remittent fever - - -	—	—	—	—
Infantile fever - - -	—	—	—	—
Typhus - - -	1	3	1	5
Metria or Puerperal fever - - -	—	2	—	2
Rheumatic fever - - -	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas - - -	—	1	—	1
Syphilis - - -	—	2	1	3
Noma or canker - - -	—	—	—	—
Hydrophobia - - -	—	—	—	—
II.—Hæmorrhage - - -	1	1	—	2
Dropsy - - -	—	3	4	7
Abscess - - -	1	4	—	5
Ulcer - - -	—	—	—	—
Fistula - - -	—	1	—	1
Mortification - - -	—	—	1	1
Cancer - - -	—	2	1	3
Gout - - -	—	1	1	2
III.—Serofula - - -	1	—	—	1
Tabes Mesenterica - - -	2	—	—	2
Phthisis (or Consumption) - - -	4	121	3	128
Hydrocephalus - - -	5	—	—	5
IV.—Cephalitis - - -	4	—	—	4
Apoplexy - - -	—	3	3	6
Paralysis - - -	—	9	8	17
Delirium tremens - - -	—	—	—	—
Chorea - - -	—	—	—	—
Epilepsy - - -	—	—	—	—
Tetanus - - -	—	—	—	—
Insanity - - -	—	—	—	—
Convulsions - - -	15	2	—	17
Disease of brain, &c. - - -	2	2	1	5
V.—Pericarditis - - -	—	—	—	—
Aneurism - - -	—	1	—	1
Disease of heart - - -	3	7	1	11
VI.—Laryngitis - - -	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis - - -	9	7	8	24
Pleurisy - - -	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia - - -	7	13	2	22
Asthma - - -	—	—	1	1
Disease of lungs, &c. - - -	1	2	3	6

Return of Deaths, 1851—*continued.*

Causes of Death.	Age.			Total.
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	60 and upwards.	
VII.—Teething - - -	2	—	—	2
Quinsey - - -	—	—	—	—
Gastritis - - -	—	—	1	1
Enteritis - - -	1	1	—	2
Peritonitis - - -	—	3	—	3
Ascites - - -	—	2	2	4
Ulceration (of intestines, &c.) -	—	3	—	3
Hernia - - -	—	—	—	—
Ileus - - -	—	—	—	—
Intussusception - - -	—	1	—	1
Stricture (of the intestinal canal) -	—	—	—	—
Disease of stomach, &c. -	—	—	—	—
Disease of pancreas - - -	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis - - -	—	—	1	1
Jaundice - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of liver - - -	—	—	2	2
Disease of spleen - - -	—	—	—	—
VIII.—Nephritis - - -	—	—	—	—
Nephria (or Bright's disease) -	—	—	—	—
Ischuria - - -	—	—	—	—
Diabetes - - -	—	2	—	2
Stone - - -	—	—	—	—
Cystitis - - -	—	—	—	—
Stricture of the urethra - - -	—	1	—	1
Disease of kidneys, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—
IX.—Paramenia - - -	—	—	—	—
Ovarian dropsy - - -	—	—	—	—
Childbirth, see Metria - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of uterus, &c. - - -	—	1	—	1
X.—Arthritis - - -	—	—	—	—
Rheumatism - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of joints, &c. - - -	—	2	—	2
XI.—Carbuncle - - -	—	—	1	1
Phlegmon - - -	—	—	—	—
Disease of skin, &c. - - -	1	—	—	1
XVII.—Intemperance - - -	—	—	—	—
Privation of food - - -	—	—	—	—
Want of breast-milk - - -	—	—	—	—
Neglect - - -	—	—	—	—
Cold - - -	—	—	—	—
Poison - - -	—	—	—	—
Burns and scalds - - -	2	—	—	2
Hanging, &c. - - -	—	1	—	1
Drowning - - -	—	1	1	2
Fractures and contusions - - -	—	3	—	3
Wounds - - -	—	—	—	—
Other violence - - -	1	4	—	5
Causes not specified - - -	29	33	21	83

The following written statement of the general history and condition of both the town of Gosport and the parish of Alverstoke was furnished to me by Mr. *Neale*.

“ Alverstoke is an extensive and populous parish in the southern division of the county of Southampton, comprising the town and port of Gosport, the village of Alverstoke, and the chapelries of Anglesey, Forton, and Elson. The whole area of the parish is about 4,010 acres, 2,854 of these are under cultivation.

“ The population in 1841 was 13,587; in 1851, 16,353; or an increase of 2,766 in ten years.

“ In 1841 the total number of houses was 2,598; in 1851, 3,028, or an increase of 430 houses in ten years.

“ At the time of taking the last census, 99 houses were uninhabited, but most of them were scarcely finished building, and so untenanted. There are not at present 50 houses in the whole parish unoccupied. The annual assessment of the parish to the relief of the poor is about 28,000*l*. The annual sum collected as poor rate is about 4,000*l*.

“ There are no manufactories, the principal support of the neighbourhood are the Clarence Yard and Haslar Hospital for the royal navy. The head-quarters of the Royal Marines are at Forton barracks; 1,000 men are generally stationed there. Haslar barraeks are occupied by a company of Artillery, or the depôt of an Infantry regiment. The convict Hulks contain about 800 prisoners, and are supplied from the town. Many half-pay officers, pensioners, &c., reside in the locality. The number of houses in the town of Gosport is 1,553.

“ The town of Gosport is surrounded by a strong line of field works, with a deep moat glacis, and covert way; the works from right to left mount 70 guns; the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard is within the works; there are several pieces of meadow land also enclosed. There are three main streets, viz., High-street (north and south), two open squares (Cold Harbour and the Green), and 13 other leading and open streets, containing about 780 houses fronting the road or street. There are about 104 courts or alleys, containing about 750 or 760 houses, locally known as small tenements. The population of the town is about 7,300. The total length of streets is less than 7,000 feet; the length of ordnance roads, within the town, about 2,400 feet. There are two main entrances into the town, one called the Double Gates, the other the Single Gate; there is also another gate leading to Haslar Gateway. The streets of the town are lighted by gas lamps, there are 76 lamps; the ordnance roads are not lighted. There are two churches, the one a distriet church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity; the burial-ground of the old church has been in use since 1689, it is barely an acre and a half; 150 corpses are on an average annually interred; this burial-ground is in a densely crowded locality.

“ Trinity church was built or rebuilt under the powers of an Act of Parliament, obtained in the year 1825 by the Rev. R. Bingham, the present incumbent; it will hold about 2,000 persons. St. Matthew's, a parish for ecclesiastical purposes, stands to the north of the

town; it was built about the year 1845; it contains about 800 sittings, all free; there is no burial-ground. There are four Dissenting places of worship, and one Roman Catholic. There is no public endowed charity school; there is a national school near St. Matthew's church, and a free school near Trinity church, both built and supported by voluntary subscriptions.

"The dimensions of the Trinity school are as follows, two rooms, one up-stairs, the other down, each 26 feet long by 17 feet wide, and 11 feet high, containing about 4,862 cubical feet each. The average number of children in the two rooms is about 120 or 130. There is no water laid on, or supplied. There are two privies. There is a school called the British School, supported by the Dissenters; there are almshouses standing near Trinity church, Gosport; they were, till within the last few years, in ruins, they have recently been rebuilt.

"Great complaints are made of the moats not being flushed more frequently; the mud and filth are dug out and left to rot and fester on the banks.

Water Supply.

"There are no regular waterworks: there is no fire-engine the property of the town. Water is supplied by three private individuals from three deep wells, their private property. The water is sent round in large tubs holding a tun each; these are on wheels, and drawn by horses. A tub (a tun) holds 116 pails, this gives about $2\frac{1}{8}$ gallons per pail. The charge is one farthing per pail. If each of the 1,500 houses consumes only three pails (barely seven gallons) per day, nearly 1,700*l.* per annum must be paid for a very insufficient and impure supply of water.

"Water-closets are constructed at a heavy cost, a separate cistern and force-pump being requisite for each. Carts from these wells are sent with water to some of the outlying parts. Shallow wells, about 12 feet deep, with pumps, are attached to most of the street houses. The water is brackish from its contiguity to the sea, and so contaminated by the percolation of cesspools as to be utterly unfit for use. There are about 16 public pumps in the different streets.

Drainage.

"There is no under-ground drainage. Cesspools are general throughout the town; they are about 6 feet by 4 feet, and 8 feet deep. They are emptied, and their foul and fœtid contents carried through the houses. The average charge for emptying is about 12*s.* There are about 130 privies in 104 alleys, with 760 houses, or about one privy for five houses; about 100 pumps, or one on an average for about seven houses.

Scavenging, Cleansing, &c.

"It has been said before that there is no under-ground drainage. Surface-gutters in the various streets receive the rain-fall and the contents of the sinks from the various houses. The sinks of most houses run under the floors of the houses into the street; a con-

stant effluvia from the waste water is thus caused. These gutters ultimately run by short covered drains into the harbours or the moats. There are nine different points of outlet. The whole length of covered drains is not 500 feet. The site of the town is not favourable, being a dead level, only about 4 feet or 5 feet above high-water mark. But the whole of the town is capable of being drained by back-drainage, and common earthenware pipes may be used. The whole length of the mains and sub-mains need not be two miles.

“The scavenger sweeps the streets daily. He is paid 100*l.* a year, and has all the town refuse. The streets are watered in summer by a water-cart drawn by two men. The cost is about 100*l.* a year.

“The town, as regards the footways, is in general well paved. The High-street is Macadamized, the other streets cobbled: there is in general a surface-gutter on each side of the carriage-road. The courts and alleys are generally unpaved and swampy.

North Liberty.

“The North Liberty extends from Hoe Ford (the division between Fareham and Alverstoke parishes) to the gates of Gosport. It includes the chapelries of St. John's Forton, and St. Thomas Elson. The main turnpike-road from Hoe Ford to the Double Gates, Gosport, a distance of $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, is a part of the Gosport and Chawton turnpike-road, and is kept in repair by the trustees under that Turnpike Act. For the first mile and a quarter the road runs entirely through an agricultural district, and passes only one public-house, one gentleman's seat, four farm-houses, and about eight cottages. At the end of this mile and a quarter (by Brockhurst Lodge), a road to Rowner and Titchfield runs off on the south, and one to the hamlets of Hardway and Elson on the north. At Brockenhurst, two miles from Gosport, is a toll-gate; within one mile from this gate, on the Gosport-road, are 76 houses fronting the road, five of these are farm-houses with homesteads, &c. On the next mile, leading to Gosport, 185 houses front the road, and on various lanes, new streets, &c., branching from the road, and most of them newly built; also in some courts are 282 more houses and tenements, in all 467. On this mile of road are also passed “The Military prison,” the Royal Marine barracks, the terminus of the London and South-western railway, the church of St. John's, the school of St. John's, and the Baptist chapel. The gas-main runs up to the military prison, which is lighted with gas. Forton barracks are not, however, lighted, neither is the church, and there is not one lamp on the whole road; neither at the Double Gates (the main entrance into Gosport.) A lane called Spring-garden runs from the Double to the Single Gates on the outside of the works, connecting the North and South Liberty, the gas main traverses the lane, but there is not a single lamp. Privies and cesspools, the same as in the town, are in use in the whole of the North Liberty. The highway-rate of fourpence in the pound is levied on the whole of this road; but the inhabitants

derive no benefit from its application, the Turnpike Trustees, as before-named, repairing the road. There is no regular footpath, the road is merely repaired by pitching out loads of shingle; open ditches catch the rainfall.

"In some cases one privy and one pump suffice for seven or eight houses. The overflow from the privies is much complained of. There is a broad estuary known as the 'Bishop's Mill Pond,' into it about 40 privies empty (from Nelson-place), also the drain of the military prison, containing about 200 inmates. This drain is 18 inches diameter, and discharges within five feet of the main road; at high tide the sewage matter is pent up, but at low tide, when discharging, the effluvium is dreadful. The wells are shallow, and the water unfit for use. Water-carts from the town are sent round. There are two springs, one known as Ann's-hill, a public spring, volume about 4,000 gallons in 24 hours; the other a stream of the Old Forton waterworks, from which the town was formerly supplied. This water was formerly of good quality, its volume might fill a 4-inch pipe; its situation is only about five feet from the prison drain above alluded to; it might be injured by percolation. Its elevation below the level of the town, and the crowded locality in which it stands, render it very ineligible for a supply.

"Mention has been made of two roads leading from 'Brookhurst-bar,' one to Rowner, the other to Elson and Hardway. On the road leading to Rowner is one farm-house and homestead, 'Alder's Farm,' and three cottages.

"The villages of Elson and Hardway contain about 210 houses and tenements; there are six farm-houses and homesteads. The population is chiefly agriculturists and fishermen. There is a church, built in 1844, dedicated to St. Thomas, and a burial-ground of about 35 rods, a free-school, and two dissenting places of worship. The privies at Hardway are in a ruinous state; most empty into the harbour. One is common to three or four houses in many cases, the same with pumps; the water is very brackish; cholera was rife here in 1849.

"There is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile of highways in Elson and Hardway; at the further point of Hardway is the powder magazine of Priddy's Hard and the Laboratory, surrounded by a strong line of field-works. The Ordnance have a ferry from Priddy's Hard to Gosport.

"St. John's, Forton.—This church was built by voluntary subscriptions: it will contain about 11,000 persons. The burial-ground encompassing it contains an area of about 10,000 square feet, totally inadequate for a population of 2,500. The burial-ground has been in use ten years, full 400 persons have been interred; 10,000 square feet is only sufficient for about 350 interments, the ground is therefore already full. It is not liable to be built round, being bounded by St. John's church and play-ground on one side, the railway on another, the turnpike on the third, and a farmyard on the fourth. The site of the church and burial-ground is full 10 feet above the turnpike-road level. The soil is deep gravel mixed with clay; 12 feet may be dug out without meeting with

water. A small portion of land lying in front of the church, between the church and the road, may, with singular advantage, be added to the burial-ground. This land is known as 'The Glebe.' Its extent is less than half an acre. It is now damp, but may with ease and advantage be drained when deep drainage becomes general. Brick earth abounds in the locality. The Gosport terminus of the London and South-western Railway is drained into the moat of the fortifications, and the interior lighted with gas by the Company at their own cost.

"The schools of St. John the Evangelist stand to the west of the church on some elevation above the road. The length is 60 feet; width, 20 feet; height, 20 feet; to crown of roof, 16 feet; to sides, cubical contents, 21,600 cube feet; or 216 feet for each child, supposing 200 to attend. There are two privies. There is no pump. The site of the school is dry and hard. There is a playground of about 35 rods.

First 1¼ mile.—From Hoe Ford.

Fleetland's house	-	-	-	-	} 19
Fleetland's farm	-	-	-	-	
Upper Beadenham farm	-	-	-	-	
Lower do. do.	-	-	-	-	
Two labourers' cottages	-	-	-	-	
Rowner farm	-	-	-	-	
Bridgway farm and cottage	-	-	-	-	
Blenheim-house	-	-	-	-	
Five cottages	-	-	-	-	
North Star inn	-	-	-	-	}
Three cottages	-	-	-	-	

Second Mile—From Brockhurst-bar.

Houses fronting road	-	-	-	-	76
(5 of these are farm-houses.)					
Branching from road	-	-	-	-	38

Third Mile.—From Ann's-hill to Double Gates.

Houses fronting road	-	-	-	-	186
(2 of these are farm-houses.)					
Branching from do.	-	-	-	-	282
Elson and Hardway	-	-	-	-	210
Houses	-	-	-	-	811

"Area at Elson for burying, about 8,000 square feet; not more than 240 corpses could be decently interred; 30 are buried in each year; ground lies high, and may easily be enlarged.

Population, 1851.

Forton District	-	-	-	2,415
Elson and Hardway	-	-	-	1,049
Marine Barracks	-	-	-	656
Prison	-	-	-	149
				<u>4,269</u>

South Liberty,

"The South Liberty includes the rectory of Alverstoke, the chapelry of Anglesea, Stoke-village, Bury, New Town, Dock Village, Ewer-common, Anglesea-villa, Clay-hall, Haslar, &c. A low tract of marshy land extends from a point at the east, known as Block House Point (on which is a strong fort), along the back of Haslar Hospital; past another fort, known as Monkton and Haslar barracks, in front of Anglesea and Stoke-village, towards the boundary of Titchfield parish. A space of this wild tract is known as Haslar Common, another part, as Stokes's Bay Common. The whole fronts the Isle of Wight; the marine residences of Lord Ashburton, Mr. Croker, and other gentlemen, are on Stokes's Bay. A road, a common highway, runs from Stokes's-bay through Privett to Gosport, about a mile and a half; it enters the town by the Single Gates. The first mile and a half of the road from the bay through Privett to Bury Cross only passes 3 farm-houses and homesteads. At Bury Cross are 24 houses; 2 homesteads are then passed, and Bury-road, with 34 houses. The road now assumes the name of Stoke-road, and on the remaining three quarters of a mile 81 houses front the road. Alver-road, Dock-village, Grove-place, Chester-place, Peel-terrace, and Grove-street, and New Town branch from this road; there is not a single lamp. No separate footpath; privies to the houses; and water brought round in carts. The road is mended with shingle from the sea-beach. New Town has 152 houses in 3 streets; Alver-road, 15; Grove-place, 15; Chester-place, 10; Peel-terrace, 19; the Grove-streets, 48; Jamaica-place, 5; Dock-village, 52. The privies at Dock-village empty into the salt-water lake. The total number of houses abutting on the mile and a half of road from Privett to Gosport is about 500.

"Proceeding down Alver-road, the poor-house is reached by a bridge; it is a building calculated to hold 300 persons; it is supplied with water from a deep well; it is drained into the field adjoining; a sandy waste, known as Ewer common, is next reached at the back of the poor-house. There are here about 40 houses. Little Anglesea, with 5 houses, is passed, and the village of Alverstoke gained; the village contains the rectory-house, two or three gentlemen's seats, the church, a free school, and about 90 dwelling-houses, mostly small tenements. There is no drainage; the village lies in some parts below high-water mark; cesspools abound. There are two burial grounds of about 2 acres, used from time immemorial; the other two-thirds of an acre, in use about 40 years; the number of interments average 180 per annum; the church stands two miles from Gosport.

"The watering place of Anglesey contains about 50 excellent houses; no pavement, no lamps, no drainage; water brought from carts.

"About half a mile further to the south-east of Gosport, and at the back of Haslar Hospital, is the hamlet of Clay Hall, with 50 houses, unpaved, undrained, and unlighted.

“Haslar Hospital, a town of itself, inclosing 46 acres (in which the Naval Burial Ground is included), fronts Gosport to the south-east ; it contains about 800 patients, officers, &c. All the lamps are of oil, and the wards are lighted with oil. It is drained into the lake, and connected with Gosport by a bridge, the entrance to which is from the Haslar gateway, the third main entrance of Gosport.

“It will be seen from this that no part of the Liberty is drained or lighted. A fourpenny highway rate levied over the whole produces 300*l.* a year. The Government at the various barracks pump water from deep wells at heavy cost, and would doubtless be glad to be supplied by a water company ; also to have their establishments lighted with gas in preference to oil, both for cheapness and comfort.

	Houses.
Stokes's-bay	3
Privett	3 *
Bury-cross	24
Bury-hall	1
Wilmot	1
Bury-road	34
Love-lane	10
Stoke-road	89
Leaver's-place	6
Old-buildings	5
Alver-road	15
Doek-village	53
Jamaica-place	5
Grove and Chester places	27
Peel-terrace	19
New Town	152
The Grove-streets	48
Detached	3
Ewer-common	40
Little Anglesey	5
Stoke-village	90
Anglesey	50
Clay-hall	50
	729

Population, 1851.

South side	3,392
Haslar Hospital	639
Barracks	300
	4,331

* Farm-houses and homesteads.

GENERAL STATEMENTS.

Mr. James Adams, architect and surveyor, stated, "That the greater part of the night-soil was discharged into cesspools, and the liquid refuse chiefly into open channels, the contents of which were delivered by 11 outlet drains. Two of these were to the east near the public landing-place; the smell from them was very offensive, and the nuisance they occasioned was very great; besides which, a bad impression was created in the minds of strangers when they first entered the town. There were three other outlets on the south and on the west, with their outfalls into an old mill pond. The last-named outlet received the contents of several common privies, but it was not within the Commissioners' jurisdiction.

"There was not a single properly constructed sewer in the whole town. The bad state of the drainage was one of the chief evils of the district, and this was rendered still greater by the trifling amount of fall that could be obtained. The drains emptied themselves near high-water mark, there being only a difference of level of 13 feet between this point and the head of High-street, which was 1,600 feet in length. The average lift of tide was about $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

"This general absence of fall in the channels was attended with many bad results, so that it was quite impossible to keep them in a cleanly or wholesome condition.

"There was not a single house in the town without a cesspool, except some of those occupied by the poor, which had neither cesspool nor privy. As a general rule, one privy served for the common use of the occupants of an entire court or alley."

The *Rev. James Tanner* "wished to express his entire concurrence in the remarks made by *Mr. Adams* relative to the surface drainage and the cesspools. In but few cases are the latter provided with overflow drains. When emptied their contents have generally to be carried through the dwellings, the average cost of doing so being about 12s. Their general dimensions are 6 feet by 4 feet, and about 8 feet deep. Some are made in the clay, others in the gravel and steined with brick laid dry. There is a general want of privy accommodation; in some of the lanes and back-streets there are none at all, and even some of the houses fronting the High-street are similarly unprovided. In the poorer quarters of the town there is not on an average more than one privy to every six or seven houses. With reference to the defective drainage, he might specify an open drain belonging to the Ordnance, which was a great nuisance; it was one of the chief outlets for the town sewage, but it was unfortunately out of the liberty, and the authorities therefore had no control over it. The outfall drain from the New Military Prison, which had been recently constructed, discharged its contents near Forton Mill. The water at this point was very shallow, even at high tide, and at low water a large surface of mud was exposed, from which the most offensive and pernicious exhalations arose. There was another offensive open channel on the south side of the London turnpike, near some new houses, built opposite Forton Mill."

— *Hoskins, Esq.*, Chairman of the Nuisances, said, "That

there were many nuisances in the town, but that the moats round Gosport, all of which were under the charge of the Ordnance, were amongst the greatest. The greatest impediment to cleanliness was caused by the state of the drainage. The town authorities had made every exertion, and had also tried to flush and cleanse the channels, but as the whole of the drainage was on the surface, they found it impossible to do so; in summer particularly, the accumulations of refuse stagnating in the channels were so offensive that people were driven away from the town in consequence. Wherever the surface channels discharged their contents into the outlet drains, the gratings were choked up with collections of refuse. The Fore Shore also was rendered most offensive from the same cause, and its condition led strangers who visited the town to exclaim, when they first saw it, 'What a dirty place this is!' The Commissioners had no power to remedy the last-named evil, as their jurisdiction extended to high-water mark only.

"Many of the alleys and courts, particularly those leading out of South-street, were in a very bad state from want of proper privy accommodation.

"There were also numerous pigsties and slaughter-houses in an offensive condition. The blood and offal from the latter places were certainly removed by hand, but the water used for washing the slaughter-houses ran into the open channels in the main streets."

Mr. *Sydney Smith* said, "That he was in the habit of passing one of the moats daily, and that he had noticed the water was sometimes not changed for a whole week. A representation had been made to the commanding engineer on the subject, and some improvement was made at the time, but they soon became as bad as ever. These places are the receptacles for dead cats and dogs and all kinds of refuse, and the water was so much polluted that from six to twelve boys had been made ill by bathing in one of them.

"There was a great want of proper means for the removal of house refuse. He had often seen collections of offensive matter laying in front of his own door, and other persons had also complained of a similar annoyance."

Mr. *J. G. Blake* said, "That in Bannister's-lane there were extensive premises on which cows and pigs were kept and slaughtered, and tripe-boiling carried on. The smell was so offensive in consequence that he had often thought of removing his family to another part of the town. The owner of the premises had promised to abate the nuisance, but it still remained."

CONDITION OF THE MOATS.

The following statement was furnished by *Thomas Gray, Esq., surgeon* :—

"I now beg to draw your attention to a point which I omitted to lay before you on your late inspection, owing to my absence on professional engagements; it is the very offensive and dangerous

state (as regards the public health) of the moats forming the southern and western boundaries of the town; these moats receiving as they do the contents of several town drains, are often charged with very offensive matters. Being likewise the receptacle of the carcases of dogs, cats, and other refuse, the waters become very highly charged with decomposing matter, and in summer especially give off much miasmatic and other noxious exhalations, which, I am satisfied, have been the cause of much endemic disease in this town and neighbourhood.

"This, in my opinion, would be remedied in some degree were the moats more frequently flushed with the salt water, say every other day in summer and twice a week in winter; over this, however, the trustees under the Local Act of Parliament have no control, the works of defence being the property and under the supervision of the Ordnance Board alone."

MANAGEMENT of the STREETS.

Mr. *Thomas Keene* stated, "That he was the contractor for the public scavenging and street cleansing, for which he received 49*l.* a year. He employed 5 men, 2 horses, and 2 carts. By the terms of his contract he was only required to visit the public courts and passages. The late contractor received 100*l.* a year. About 186 waggon-loads of soil were collected annually. After it was turned up and mixed, it was sold at the rate of 9*s.* 6*d.* per waggon-load.

"Some of the roads were pebbled, but those of a better class were pitched with purbeck, and, where there was most traffic, with Guernsey stone. High-street was macadamized with flint, and the kerbs were chiefly of granite."

Mr. *Garrett* stated, "That he was the contractor for paving the streets. The work was submitted to public competition, and his tender, being the lowest, was accepted. There was no regular surveyor appointed by the trustees; Mr. Adams, who was one of that body, acted as an honorary surveyor, and he (Mr. Garrett), when not their contractor, was also in the habit of acting as the surveyor under the Local Act."

— said, "That from 1st of April to the 1st of October 44 cart-loads of water, each weighing half a ton, were used in watering the streets and flushing the gutters. Four men were employed in this way, and received 3*s.* a day wages. For two months, in the height of the summer, an extra horse and cart was employed in watering the streets at an additional cost of 7*s.* per day."

SCAVENGING.

T. Brooks said, "That he was a nightman, and had been one for about eight years. The cost of emptying a soil-pit 10 to 12 feet long, 6 to 7 feet wide, and 4 to 5 feet deep came to 2*l.*, which also included the cost of removing and replacing the flooring. If much rain fall the pit might be used for eight or nine months with-

out requiring to be emptied, but on an average it was cleared out twice a year. This pit was used by the inmates of 18 houses, of which—

3	were rated at	-	2 <i>l.</i>	each
14	„	-	2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	„
1	„	-	5 <i>l.</i>	„

“In another case a pit serving for the use of 12 houses, rated at 2*l.* a year each, and containing 9 cubic yards, was emptied by him once a year for the sum of 25*s.*

“In a third case, a house used as a school, he has removed 7 cart-loads at a time, each containing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yard of soil, for which he is paid 18*s.* The cesspool is emptied once in 15 months, and the contents are carried through a portion of the premises.

“In *Berrey's-alley* a pit serving for the use of 6 or 7 houses, rated at 2*l.* a year each, is emptied about once in nine or ten months. He gets about 6 cube yards of soil at a time, and is paid 10*s.* for removing it.

“In *North Cross-street* there was a house, rented at 11*l.* 5*s.* a year, with a cesspool made in the gravel. It was emptied once in 10 years. The last time he did so he got out 3 cubic yards of soil, and received 10*s.* for doing so.

“For removing 3 loads, each containing $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yard of soil, from a house in High-street he received 22*s.*, but in this case the soil was brought through the house. The men were paid at the rate of 3*s.* per night, with beer. The largest pit occupied 4 men and a pair of horses for two nights. In the day-time a horse was charged 7*s.* per day. The work was very variable; sometimes he was unemployed for weeks together; at other times he was out two, three, and four times a week. He had little or no demand for the soil, but he sometimes sold it at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a load to the farmers, at a distance of two or three miles from the town.”

J. Tribe and *W. Butt*, two nightmen, concurred in the statement of the last witness; the former, however, said, “That he could always dispose of the night soil to the neighbouring farmers, who carted it away at their own expense, and paid him at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* for $1\frac{1}{4}$ cube yard of soil.”

J. Sheath said, “He had been a nightman for 40 years. The cost of removing the night-soil varied considerably. It cost in some cases 3*l.*, in others 2*l.*, and sometimes not more than 5*s.* or 10*s.* He was an owner of house property himself, and he thought that 5*s.* per house might be considered the average rate of yearly expenses. He was generally paid 2*s.* 6*d.* per cubic yard for removing the soil, which he applied to land in his own occupation. He found it very valuable, and he would not deposit it in the harbour even if he were allowed to do so.”

MANAGEMENT OF THE ROADS.

Mr. Wyatt stated, “That he had been highway surveyor for the parish of Alverstoke for several years. The gravel was led from

tho sea-shore for the repair of the roads. The following was the rate of eartage :—

		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
One man and single horsed cart	- -	5	0 per day.
„ and two „ „	- -	7	6 „
„ and three „ „	- -	11	0 „
„ and four horsed waggon	-	15	0 „

“ All properties within the jurisdiction of the Trustees of the Gosport Paving and Lighting Act were exempted from contributing to the highway rates, but all property in the parish beyond the limits of their Act was liable to pay them. The highway surveyors also repaired the church paths, the cost of which was included in the general return, which he begged to furnish.

“ The extent of the roads and highways the parish is liable to repair, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles :—

Levied.		Received.			Expended.		
		£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		£	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
1848, 1849.	3 <i>d.</i> in the £.	166	9	$10\frac{3}{4}$	- -	170	15 $6\frac{1}{2}$
1849, 1850.	4 <i>d.</i> „	237	13	$2\frac{1}{2}$	- -	227	14 11
1850, 1851.	2 <i>d.</i> „	115	16	11	- -	138	15 $2\frac{1}{2}$
		<u>£520 0 $0\frac{1}{4}$</u>				<u>£537 5 0</u>	

THE WATER SUPPLY.

C. Barker, Esq., a scientific chemist, said, “ That he had tested three samples of water from different sources. The first was taken from Mr. Goodeve’s or Byles’ well, in Haslar-street. Upon evaporation, he found that one gallon contained 14 grains of solid matter, of which,

Sulphates amounted to about	-	-	1·5
Chloride of sodium	-	-	6·0
Sulphate of lime	-	-	1·4

“ There was a mere trace of lime. Common salt was a principal ingredient, but he believed that this water was better calculated for domestic use than any other in the district.

“ The second sample was taken from Mr. Paddon’s well, the water of which is sold for public use. In this instance the sulphate of lime was 4·7. In all other respects the water, as far as he could judge, was the same as that from Byles’s well; and they were both, therefore, equally well adapted for domestic purposes. The third sample was taken from the Forton spring, which is used by the people living near it, but not by the inhabitants of the town.

“ Byles’s or Goodeve’s well was 191 feet deep, the last 30 feet being composed of hard blue clay and heavy sand. The well is stated, by its owner, to yield 960 gallons per minute.

“ There were several carriers who retailed water from the different wells; 18 carts were supplied from Byles’s well, each contained 216, or 3,888 gallons daily, for six days in the week, throughout the year.

“ Mr. Paddon supplied 12 carts, containing the same quantity, or 2,592 gallons daily.

“ Mr. Biden supplied 6 carts, the same as the above, or 1,296 gallons daily. The united quantity delivered from these wells every day amounted, therefore, to 1,776 gallons. It was all good drinking water, and the price charged was 1*d.* for 9 gallons.”

H. Compigné, Esq., said, “ That in addition to the above-named wells, 13 others, with pumps attached to them, have been sunk within the last 8 years, under the powers of the Local Act. These wells are used by the inhabitants, but they were originally put down by the Commissioners, and are now used for the purpose of cleansing the town. None of them have ever been known to fail, except one, and that only on a single occasion.”

— *Cruickshank*, Esq., furnished me with the following account of past proceedings in connexion with the water supply :—

“ Many years ago the then Bishop of Winchester granted certain individuals the right to establish water-works, and take their supply from the Forton spring. Some doubts having arisen as to the right of the Bishop to grant a lease of three lives, an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable him to do so, in which also powers were taken to lay down pipes. A joint stock company was then formed to carry on the water-works, but much litigation arose, and a suit in Chancery was commenced by them against the Bishop. At this time the preliminary steps had been taken by the Company, and pipes had been laid down to supply the water from Breyden’s well. The Company’s affairs, however, fell into confusion, and a person who had a claim upon their plant took it, together with the water pipes. In the course of time the lives on which the Bishop had originally granted the lease, became extinct; on the property reverting to him, a new lease was granted, also on three lives, which were those of the youngest branches of the Royal Family.

“ The well had been his property for the last 18 months. Whatever source might be fixed on for the future supply of the town, he was willing to use his best endeavours to promote the comfort of his fellow townsmen.”

Mr. Richard Poulden furnished me with an account of the yield of water from the well in Haslar-street. “ About the year 1823 he measured the yield of water from the well. The copper pipes, 3 inches in diameter in the clear, were first cleaned out; they then removed the sand at the bottom of the well. The plug having been removed, it was found that the water rose in the well 3 feet in the first six minutes; it rose the next 5 feet, in one hour; and 5 feet more in another hour and a half. In four hours and a half it had risen 5 feet more; and in the next eleven hours, 2 feet additional. On the whole it rose 20 feet in eighteen hours and six minutes. From the time these observations were made to the present period, the well had yielded an average income of from 10*l.* to 11*l.* a week, the whole year through, the water being retailed at the rate of 8 gallons for 1*d.* The well was sunk for the purpose of supplying the brewery in the first instance, but they had always had a ready sale

for the whole of the water sent out. It was supplied every day except Sunday.

"His own family were eight in number, and he found that water, for drinking and cooking purposes only, cost him about 9d. a week. It was kept in the yard in a large covered pan. For washing purposes he had a private well, attached to his house, and also a rain-water tank."

Mr. *B. Hobbs* said, "That the average cost of a daily supply of not more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water amounted to 15s. 2d. a year."

Mr. *Neale* said, "The water he used in his house cost him 1s. a week; and the want of a proper water supply compelled owners of property who wanted water-closets to put up force-pumps, tanks, &c., at their own cost, at an expense, in some cases, of not less than 60l."

There were 239 houses supplied with water from the Forton well, which were situated as follows :—

	Number of houses.		
Nelson-place	-	-	22
Hope-place	-	-	5
Harriett-place	-	-	4
Belle vue-place	-	-	4
Keen and Woods place	-	-	23
St. John's-place	-	-	6
Union-place	-	-	26
St. John's-square	-	-	19
Mill-lane (about)	-	-	60
Forton-road (about)	-	-	58
Providence-place	-	-	12
			239

ANALYSES OF WATER.

The following are the results of the analyses of the four samples of water, made by Professor Playfair :—

No. 1.—*From Goodeve's Well, Haslar-street.*

Degrees of hardness	-	-	5.8
Silica	-	-	0.660
Iron and alumina	-	-	0.170
Carbonate of lime	-	-	2.780
Carbonate of magnesia	-	-	1.820
Carbonate of potash	-	-	3.674
Carbonate of soda	-	-	1.873
Sulphate of soda	-	-	4.345
Chloride of sodium	-	-	3.503
Grains per imperial gallon	-	-	18.825

No. 2.—*From Paddon's Well, Windmill-row.*

This sample was inodorous, but contained some flocculent organic matter in suspension.

Degrees of hardness	-	-	5.8
Silica	-	-	0.700
Iron and alumina	-	-	0.160
Carbonate of lime	-	-	2.860
Carbonate of magnesia	-	-	2.004
Carbonate of soda	-	-	1.729
Carbonate of potash	-	-	4.000
Sulphate of soda	-	-	4.402
Chloride of sodium	-	-	3.271
Grains per imperial gallon	-	-	19.126

No. 3.—*From Biden's Well, North-street.*

This sample was colourless and inodorous, but turbid.

Degrees of hardness	-	-	5.2
Silica	-	-	0.820
Iron and alumina	-	-	0.140
Carbonate of lime	-	-	2.880
Carbonate of magnesia	-	-	1.797
Carbonate of potash	-	-	1.585
Carbonate of soda	-	-	2.925
Sulphate of potash	-	-	6.994
Chloride of sodium	-	-	1.133
Grains per imperial gallon	-	-	18.274

No. 4.—*From Cruickshank's spring, Old Waterworks, Forton.*

Without odour and colourless, but turbid.

Degrees of hardness	-	-	21.6
Silica	-	-	0.440
Iron and alumina	-	-	0.160
Carbonate of lime	-	-	15.300
Sulphate of lime	-	-	1.485
Sulphate of magnesia	-	-	6.289
Sulphate of potash	-	-	2.425
Chloride of potassium	-	-	2.147
Chloride of sodium	-	-	11.567
Grains per imperial gallon	-	-	39.813

"The composition of these waters is very remarkable, from the large quantity of alkaline salts contained in them. That of the first two closely resembles, and they might be considered as the same waters; while specimens 3 and 4 contain considerably more

sulphates and less carbonates than the two former, No. 4 being a very hard water in comparison with the others."

Mr. *Byles* furnished me with the following statement respecting the well at Haslar-street brewery :—

"An unbounded supply of pure soft water is obtained from the well in Haslar-street. An idea of its softness and purity may be formed upon inquiry of the inhabitants, who use it in preference to any for its good qualities.

"It is impossible to form an idea of the vastness of its supply. Some years since, when the well was opened for the purpose of cleaning out, the plug in the pipe was imperfectly fixed, and the well was pumped by horses full speed, and as many hand-pumps as could be possibly used for four days and four nights, without making any visible decrease of water; and had not the plug at last been properly fixed, so that the supply was stopped, it never would have been emptied to this day.

The following are its dimensions :—

The depth of the shaft brick and cemented is about	30 feet.
Diameter	12 "
Depth of the bore	191 "
Diameter of the bore	about 8 inches.

There are two liquor backs, one of 100 barrels, the second 150 barrels, not either adequate for the supply of a town. A liquor back of from one to two thousand barrels would not be too large. The water is at present pumped by horse power, but a steam-engine is now in course of erection.

The depth of the well	30 feet.
Hard blue clay	45 "
Heavy sand and flow of hard water	5 "
Blue clay	50 "
Loose sand and water (hard)	11 "
Blue clay, very firm (into a bed of fine siliceous sand)	50 "
	191 "

Intermixed with either pebbles or flints producing an abundant supply of pure soft water.

The following written statement respecting the well in Windmill-row was furnished me by Mr. Paddon, its owner :—

SIR, *Stoke-road, near Gosport, Jan. 9, 1852.*

IN reply to your letter dated yesterday, I beg to say that I am most willing to give you every information in my power relative to my well at Gosport. I commenced digging from the surface in the year 1833, and it occupied six months before I succeeded in obtaining soft and pure water, at the expense of 600*l*. It was then analyzed by Dr. Henderson, at Haslar Hospital, as well as water from the other wells which supplied Gosport, when he decided, in the presence of Mr. Hewson, that mine was more

soft and pure than either of the others. I will now answer your several questions, as far as I can. The shaft is 26 feet deep; diameter I cannot tell. Depth of bore, 180 feet; diameter of ditto I do not know, nor do I know the diameter of supply pipe. The mode of power to raise water is by pumping. The eistern will contain about 15 tons. Analyzed, as before stated. Average quantity of water pumped in 24 hours, about 12 tons. Number of years in use, about 18 years. Strata, 26 feet of gravel, 50 feet of clay; the rest, to the best of my recollection, was sand and black pebbles.

I feel assured that you are not making these inquiries from any other motives than you have stated, and remain, Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Neale, Esq.

EDWARD PADDON.

James Adams, Esq., supplied me with the following particulars respecting the well in the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard:—

Memoranda of the well sunk near the mill in the Royal Clarence victualling-yard, for supplying the ships' boats and the tauk vessels with water, and also for feeding the boilers of the 40-horse engine that is used for grinding, pumping, &c.

	Ft.	In.
Depth of well	45	9

(Diameter in clear, 12 feet 5 inches.)

Depth of boring, &c. of iron and copper pipes below bottom of well	259	6
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N.B. The diameters of the iron pipes are, respectively, 29 inches, 22 inches, and 17 inches.

The lowest pipe is of copper, and is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. This last-mentioned pipe passes 27 feet below the iron pipes.

(Iron pipes, 232 feet 6 inches; and copper ditto, 27 feet.)

Total depth from surface	305	3
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The well will yield 470 tons per day, and the water is considered to be of good quality.

The following written statement was forwarded to me by the writer, *Stephen Willington*, who is one of the water carriers in Gosport:—

"SIR, "King-street, Gosport, Feb. 12, 1852.

"I TRUST you will excuse the liberty I have taken in troubling you, but having a wife and seven children to support, who are entirely dependent on my labour, I am induced to write to you to show the position I am in.

"For the last twenty years I have supplied the inhabitants of Gosport with spring water; during seventeen of these I was employed by Edward Paddon, Esq., but since that time I have worked on my own account. I also rent a portion of the well belonging to Mr. Biden, for which I pay him 16*l.* per annum, and sell, on an average, six tons per day. I have, by my own industry, been

enabled to keep my family decent and respectable, but if the Public Health Act comes into operation in this town it will seriously affect me, inasmuch as I have no trade or profession but the one I have followed from my youth. I hope, that if the Act is approved of and comes into operation, a provision will be made, or a recompense given me, as I should be entirely deprived of my daily bread. If you would be pleased, Sir, to give me your advice under these very serious circumstances, or state how I may be recompensed, I shall for ever consider myself under a very great obligation to you.

"I am, &c.

"STEPHEN WILLINGTON."

THE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The following is a return furnished by Mr. James Frisby, of the number and situation of the slaughter-houses in Gosport.

Number.	Where situated.	Beasts.	Sheep and Pigs, &c.
1	Arminer's-yard, North-street -	52	800
2	North Cross-street - -	60	700
3	North-street - - -	—	200
4	North-street - - -	250	200
5	North-street - - -	—	400
6	High-street - - -	—	360
7	High-street - - -	420	700
8	High-street - - -	84	960
9	High-street - - -	100	600
10	High-street - - -	100	750
11	High-street - - -	—	200
12	Bannister's-lane - - -	50	390
13	South-street - - -	—	150
14	York-street - - -	—	150
	By small Shopkeepers - -	—	350
105	Total for 1851 - -	1,116	6,910

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The Rev. the Incumbent of Trinity church stated the number of interments to be as follows :—

1847	-	-	134
1848	-	-	164
1849	-	-	291
1850	-	-	118
1851	-	-	139

Measurement of Trinity church

From east to west - - 126 feet.

From north to south - - 152 „

Measurement of Trinity churchyard

From east to west - - 366 feet.

From north to south - - 194 „

the property of the Government, a road-way was granted along the western boundary, in lieu of that to the ferry, for the use of the public ; and an old pensioner plied across the lake when the tide would permit ; but as the channel became dry at this point at low water, it got into disuse, and the pathways stopped across the common.

From the shallowness of the lake, and the thin surface of mud on the hard shingle bottom, a bridge might be carried over at comparatively little expense, which, I think, if properly represented, would be done by Government.

*D. Compigné, Esq., Solicitor,
Gosport.*

I am, &c.,
THOS. NORRIS.

